

**3rd annual Nat'l Black AIDS Day Fri.**

Local events planned to raise awareness in African American community.

page 13

**Jurors revolt**

Convicted pot expert gets unexpected support.

page 15

**Baez & Reno, together**

Part celebrity fest, part antiwar rally at Castro.

see Arts section



# BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 33 • No. 6 • 6 February 2003

Serving the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities since 1971

## Details of Araujo killing emerge at hearing

by Joe Dignan

J ason Cazares abruptly ended a 3:16 a.m. cell phone call to his girlfriend, Deanna Mendez, saying, "Something's about to go down." And then he hung up.

Mendez related the details of the phone call nearly four months later as the preliminary hearing for the four men accused of killing transgender teenager Gwen Araujo began January 29 and 30.

Witnesses gave some glimpses of what may have happened at the Newark, California house party last October that began ordinarily enough, went horribly wrong with sex, liquor, drugs, and violence, and ended bloodily with Araujo's battered body dumped in a shallow rocky grave in the western Sierra.

The testimony around Cazares's six-minute phone call gave a tantalizing glimpse into what happened as the party dragged on into the dark early hours of October 4, 2002 and opened a window into the nightmare that was Araujo's final hours.

"There was a lot of chaos. A lot of fighting," Mendez testified.

As Mendez reluctantly related the contents of that conversation, she said Cazares described what was going on.

"He told me someone was there and he was trying to get the truth," Mendez said from the witness stand. "He said this person is over here and we thought it was a girl but we found out it was probably a male."

In the background, she said she heard another defendant, Jose Merel, screaming at Araujo. "I just heard him screaming. He was yelling, 'Just tell me!'" Mendez said.

Prosecutor Connie Campbell tried to get Mendez, who had been one of Cazares's girlfriends, to corroborate her earlier statements to police in which she said she had also heard Araujo scream, "I am a girl," but Mendez was reluctant.

"Did you ever hear someone talk about what their gender was?" Campbell asked. "Did you ever hear someone say, 'I am a girl?'"

"Yes," Mendez said.

"You heard a voice saying 'I am a



Gwen Araujo

## Drug resistant staph infections appear in gay men

by Matthew S. Bakko

City resident Marc Caldwell with vancomycin antibiotic drip to treat staph infection.



Rick Gerhardt

The recent discovery of a drug-resistant strain of *Staphylococcus aureus* in gay men in Los Angeles and San Francisco has alarmed health officials and raised new concerns regarding the sexual practices of some men.

Since last summer, doctors in Southern and Northern California have seen an increasing number of their gay patients develop staph skin infections that are resistant to antibiotics. The reported outbreaks are the first to be seen in the gay community, though such outbreaks have been documented in healthcare centers, hospitals, and jails.

According to health officials, the staph seen in gay men can burrow into the skin and secrete enzymes which cause boils, deep abscesses, and widespread inflammation. The painful boils and abscesses have been found on the legs, buttocks, penis, scrotum, as well as the face and hands.

The staph has been seen in both HIV-negative and -positive men. In some cases, the infection results in either hospitalization or patients must self-administer intravenous drug regimens that take up to two weeks to complete.

"I am taking it intravenously at home. I have to take it twice a day, before I go to work and then I go home at night and do it again. It took me approximately two hours to do it," said Marc Caldwell, who at one point was taking four different antibiotics over the course of a month to treat his infection.

Caldwell injured his leg in a motorcycle accident last summer and developed an infection that seemed to clear up. Then in November he developed an abscess on his back which tested positive for the staph.

A 38-year-old Internet analyst, Caldwell said when his abscess appeared he had recently had sex with a man who also had an abscess. The man saw his doctor who treated him for it and did not report it to be a problem.

"He had indicated to me it was some bacteria. I don't think he knew what it was exactly," said Caldwell. "I have been with other people not realizing what this was. They have developed no symptoms whatsoever."

Dr. Bill Owen, an internist with a practice in the Castro, said he first saw the drug-resistant staph infection appear in a patient last

page 14 ►

## Ware resigns from PACHA

by Bob Roehr

As first reported by the *Bay Area Reporter* last week, Patricia Ware, the controversial executive director of the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS resigned Friday, January 31. Ware stepped down amid fallout from her support of homophobe Jerry Thacker joining the president's panel.

Thacker never took his seat on the council, as he withdrew his name shortly after media reports surfaced about comments he made in speeches and on a Web site where he referred to AIDS as the "gay plague" and called homosexuality a "death style."

Claude Allen, deputy secretary for Health and Human Services, and a longtime friend of Ware's, announced her departure Friday just hours after President Bush addressed the council and discussed his \$15 billion pledge over five years to combat AIDS in Africa and the Caribbean.

"She is being promoted to work within the office of the assistant secretary of health. She will be broadening and expanding her portfolio," Allen said in an interview with the *Washington Post*.

Bush pledged the money for international AIDS efforts in his State of the Union ad-

dress on January 28. He spoke to the subject again on Friday morning, when administration and congressional leaders, representatives of international and domestic AIDS organizations, and the PACHA met in the Indian Treaty Room of the White House.

Bush was effusive in his praise of Dr. Joseph O'Neill, the openly gay director of the Office of National AIDS Policy. "He cares deeply and his care has had – he's got a lot of influence, let me put it to you this way, because of his convictions."

Bush fleshed out more details on the international initiative and then turned to domestic programs.

"A major initiative in Africa doesn't mean we're going to forget the 900,000 people living in America today who carry the HIV virus," the president said. He outlined a 7 percent increase in



Dr. Joseph O'Neill

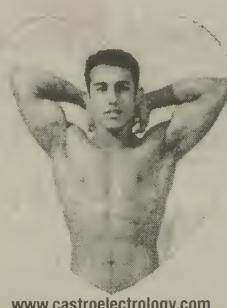
funding for prevention and care in the new 2004 fiscal year budget being put forward. Research will get an additional \$93 million and the AIDS Drug Assistance Program \$100 million.

"We must also move quickly to increase

page 14 ►

## INSIDE

BAR Talk	40
Backstage	32
Classifieds	19
Crime & Punishment	11
Legal Transactions	16
Mailstrom	7
Mister Marcus	38
Open Forum	6
Our Man Friday	9
Out There	26
Out & About	36
Personals	41
Sports Complex	18
Transmissions	10



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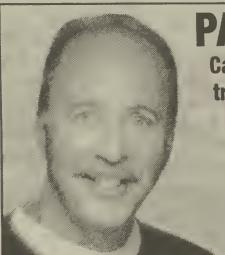
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# SFAF announces budget cut specifics

by Zak Szymanski

**M**aiting times will be increased, fewer clients will be accepted, and there will be less one-on-one time between clients and staff at the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, but the agency's core services will remain intact despite necessary belt tightening, SFAF announced on Wednesday, February 5.

Last week, SFAF confirmed a \$700,000 shortfall for the remainder of this fiscal year, and a projected \$1.6 million deficit for the 2003-04 budget year, financial troubles that will lead to 20 staff position layoffs and cuts in non-essential services, the details of which are not yet finalized.

What has been finalized, according to the most recent announcement, is that core services will continue despite the reduced workforce, although at a price to clients.

"We will prioritize seeing those

people with the most urgent need through our direct services, and the foundation will maintain the high quality of services for which we have set a standard," said a statement from Pat Christen, SFAF's executive director. "But there is no escaping the unfortunate reality that the amount of direct services we can provide will be reduced."

Core services are defined as those most critical to clients, including client advocacy, financial benefits counseling, the needle exchange program, the AIDS hotline, the Action Point program, and the Black Brothers Esteem and Gay Life workshops. SFAF has also promised that no client will lose housing as a result of the budget cutbacks.

"We made cuts with an eye to maintaining core direct services while also utilizing funds to leverage community level and policy changes that will support HIV health for the greatest numbers of people," said Christen.

The changes will be implemented over the next few weeks, said Christen, who added that pending decisions by city and state governments could have additional impact on SFAF in the coming months.

"Government deficits are very significant at the city, state, and federal levels," said Christen. "Until these budgets are finalized later this year, it is impossible to predict what might happen to government funds that support some of our programs. If government funds were to sink dramatically, additional service changes may be necessary."

Christen encouraged the community to help in the fight for HIV services by participating in AIDS LifeCycle2, the agency's major fundraising charity ride in June, which is accepting registrations at [www.aidslifecycle.org](http://www.aidslifecycle.org).

More information about specific staff layoffs and potential service cuts will be made available as those decisions are finalized. ▼

# Prevention efforts ignore late-night crowd, study finds

by Matthew S. Bajko

**P**revention messages are failing to reach those men who engage in the late night party and play scene, where an alarming number of gay and bisexual men are using drugs and engaging in unsafe sex, according to a study released this week by the city's health department.

The "Party and Play Study," which looked at HIV risk in a late night population in San Francisco, found that only one quarter of the negative men and positive men surveyed had used a prevention service in the last three months. More troubling for researchers was their finding that only 4 percent of the men who learned they were positive through the study had utilized a prevention service in the last three months.

Almost none of the first-time positives reported receiving individual counseling or attending an HIV prevention group, the study found. And while nearly a quarter of HIV negative men said they received individual counseling, the study's authors surmise much of that counseling was likely a component of HIV testing.

"Our data suggests HIV pre-

vention efforts do not appear to be reaching this population, especially first-time positives," said Mike Pendo, an HIV researcher in the Department of Public Health AIDS Office, who helped author the study.

While preliminary data from the study was released last year, the completed study results were released Tuesday, February 4 at a community forum. The study's findings suggest that not only is late-night HIV outreach needed to reach this high-risk population, but that those interventions should include substance use harm reduction messages. Also, the research suggests late-night HIV testing in the field could be useful in reaching those men who are unaware of their HIV positive status.

The Party and Play Study looked at the sexual behaviors and drug use of 391 individuals, 356 men who have sex with men and 35 male-to-female transgenders. Researchers spent six months, from September 2000 to April 2001, interviewing the men and women. Because the transgender sample size was so small, data presented Tuesday was just on the 356 men surveyed.

Researchers talked to people found between the hours of mid-

night to 4 a.m. in streets and cruising areas, bars and dance clubs, and public sex environments in the Castro, Mission, Polk, and South of Market neighborhoods.

Over a third of the men reported injecting drugs within the past three months. And 84 percent said they had used a non-injected drug within the same time period.

Of those studied, 69 percent were HIV-negative, 24 percent were known positives and 7 percent tested positive for the first time.

As for sexual behavior, the study found that out of 192 men who were bottoms during sex, 67 percent said they did not use condoms. Out of 247 men who were tops, 64 percent said they had not used condoms. A majority of men also said they had unprotected anal sex with a partner of unknown HIV status: 84 out of 138 tops and 65 out of 107 bottoms.

While 82 percent of the participants said they had seen condoms when they were at a club or bar, only 56 percent of those men had taken condoms.

"Substance use harm reduction as well as referrals to treatment services should be an integral part of any intervention," said Pendo. ▼

## COMMUNITY NEWS

# Gay men look to replace old condom code

by Matthew S. Bajko

No one questions the fact that gay and bisexual men are increasingly engaging in unsafe sex and putting themselves at risk for contracting HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases. In fact, prevention officials say there is a growing sense of fatalism among the city's gay men.

"What is really challenging is there is a growing pervasive sense that if you are gay and live in San Francisco, you will become positive. That becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy," said David Evans, program director of the Stop AIDS Project. "Many negative men feel that somehow, despite their best efforts, by the time they are 40 they will have seroconverted. There is an underlying sense of fatalism about it."

Or the flip side is true. A percentage of negative men no longer view HIV as a death sentence and simply do not care if they become infected or not. They may not be consciously seeking to become infected like so-called bug chasers, but many willingly place themselves at risk of contracting HIV.

"There is a serious issue of



Better World's Les Pappas

complacency in the community. Gay men by and large want to believe some of the denialist language we have heard that AIDS is over," said Les Pappas, the openly gay owner of Better World Advertising.

"That is what we grappled with the 'HIV is no Picnic' campaign," Pappas said of the campaign launched last fall by the Stop AIDS Project. The campaign featured four HIV-positive men discussing different side effects they experi-

enced from either being positive or taking their medications. The advertisements showcased how positive men often suffer from chronic diarrhea, Crix-belly, facial wasting, or night sweats.

The ads were meant to address negative men who are convinced having HIV is a minor complication instead of the debilitating disease. Geof Gray volunteered to be a spokesmodel in the campaign partly because "people come up to me and say they envy my life. But they don't see the puking in the morning and the pile of pills a lot of us have to take in the morning."

While the campaign elicited mostly positive feedback from negative men, the ads invoked a backlash from some positive men upset at what they saw as another campaign based on fear tactics.

Increasingly, it is positive men who are pushing for health officials and prevention providers to create new messages that go beyond the old condom code where gay men were warned repeatedly to use a rubber. They argue prevention messages must begin to address the reasons why gay men refuse to listen to safe sex messages and engage in risky behav-

page 19 ▶

## Pride Committee to discuss war stance

by Liz Highleyman

The San Francisco Pride Committee will discuss whether it should take a position regarding a potential war against Iraq at its monthly meeting scheduled for Tuesday, February 11.

"Pride brings together different people, in peace, to celebrate our unity," said Pride board President Joey Cain. "It is appropriate that we ask the question how we uphold the values of cooperation and understanding, which are central to our mission and the antithesis of war."

The Pride Committee is considering joining a growing number of queer and mainstream organizations that have announced their opposition to unilateral military action in Iraq.

The largest queer group to do so to date is the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. Although the San Francisco-based Web site Tenemos.net revealed last week that

the NGLTF had failed to take the necessary steps to officially become a member of the progressive Win Without War coalition, an NGLTF spokeswoman stated that the organization supports the coalition's aims and had made an effort to join.

Members of the public are invited to attend Tuesday's Pride meeting to give their comments about what type of action the committee should take. The committee could join an existing anti-war coalition, develop its own

stance, or take no position.

"Pride must balance the views

of the broad community that it represents and not forget those members of our community who serve in the military," said Pride Executive Director Teddy Witherington. "We cannot ignore the insidious 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' policy and must reaffirm our commitment to the rights of LGBT servicemen and women to serve without discrimination."

The meeting will take place at 7 p.m. at the LGBT Community Center at 1800 Market Street. Participants can reserve speaking time by calling (415) 864-0831 or sending e-mail to media@sfpride.org.

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# Duffy criticized for 'closed door' meeting about Halloween

by Joe Dignan

One of District 8 Supervisor Bevan Duffy's first projects since taking office has been to try and help sort out the mess that is San Francisco's Castro Halloween celebration, but less than a month into his term, his efforts have drawn criticism from a gay community leader who says that Duffy's early planning process has already excluded important city-wide community interests.

San Francisco Pride Executive Director Teddy Witherington charges that Duffy is working behind closed doors with a group of Castro area merchants to plan this year's celebration — before having public hearings on the subject.

"The thought of all this happening in a subterranean way disturbs me," said Witherington.

At the center of the controversy are the minutes of a January 16 special joint meeting of the Merchants of Upper Market and Castro and the Eureka Valley Promotion Association attended by Duffy, a representative of the mayor's office, and 10 others.

The minutes, authored by MUMC treasurer Herb Cohn, who was also treasurer of Duffy's election campaign, say that MUMC will form a small working group to move forward with meetings with Duffy, the police, and other city officials in order to "get some preliminary decisions made in conjunction with police regarding alcohol and street closure before holding a more public community forum."

"Wrong," said Witherington, who added that the only way the city's Halloween party can be successful is to include all the community groups who are affected by the party — and all those who have the talents to make it a success.

"What expertise does the city think the merchants have in organizing an event for 300,000 people?" asked Witherington, whose Pride Committee puts on San Francisco's largest public event, drawing an estimated 650,000 participants every June. "For this to work, the community has to buy into the event."

In response to Witherington's charges, Duffy said that the minutes of the meeting do not reflect his agenda.

"That's what the dozen people at the meeting had as their wish list, it's not what Supervisor Duffy is doing," he said.

Duffy has called for city-sponsored hearings about Halloween. "I plan to have it as an open public hearing," he said. He also wants them televised on the city's government-access TV channel.

Duffy also said that it is unfair to criticize him for attending a community meeting to which he was invited. "I go anywhere I'm invited to," said Duffy. "There is no validity in anyone's position that I have tried to constrain anyone's involvement in this. I have not made up my mind about much of anything other than that the city needs to take responsibility for the event."

"It was hardly closed door. It started out as a MUMC commit-



Supervisor Bevan Duffy

Look at Pink Saturday, the Sisters' Easter party, and Halloween. The agenda of EVPA and MUMC is very clear, to discourage events from being held in the Castro," Witherington said. "I think anyone should be concerned that some kind of preliminary decision should be made by people who have that track record."

"That's ridiculous," Batt said last week. He cited the group's efforts to provide extra security and extra portable toilets.

Even though Batt and other MUMC members were supporters of Duffy during his election campaign, Witherington said, "I don't question Bevan's desire around a community process or question his integrity around that. I don't believe that he went into this with the idea of doing any kind of backroom deal or anything like that, but I have a serious concern over the process as it relates to the merchants and residents."

"When you read a list of organizations that will be involved eventually, it gives me a concern that those who stuck their head in the sand and hoped that if they ignored Halloween it would go away are right at the top."

What's Witherington's idea of a dream Halloween? "Fewer stabbings, more dancing, and some money raised for the community," he said.

Some schemes for getting the enormous influx of people to the heartland of San Francisco's gay community to pay include, according to Duffy, setting up fair gates around the perimeter, both for security and to collect donations.

But Witherington said that, "As soon as it starts to make money, there's going to be enormous scrutiny. We need to put the mechanics in place for that accountability now."

Money also figures into what the police say is the biggest problem with the party now: liquor. Castro merchants routinely sell beer out the windows of their shops on the night of the party, and according to San Francisco Deputy Police Chief Greg Suh, it's the liquor that fuels the violence. The police want a complete ban on street drinking and to go liquor sales within the perimeter of the party.

Last October Batt said he was "philosophically opposed" to that idea. But now, Batt said, "Everything is on the table including liquor and entertainment."

Duffy agreed with the police. "I don't think we can get a handle on this event as long as people are allowed to drink on the street," he said.

Duffy said that he does want to have a very public process for planning the event.

"I want to be very clear that I'm only one person. I want to raise a lot of issues. We need to have a process that works," he said. "Halloween is one of the things I'm going to roll up my sleeves and get involved in. But you gotta love the process. The fur is already flying and nothing's happened yet. There is no way I'm going to bury my head in the sand." ▼

## COMMUNITY NEWS

# New report attacks 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell'

by Zak Szymanski

Just in time to challenge the Bush administration's assertions that current and pending United States military actions are in pursuit of "freedom," Human Rights Watch, the international watchdog group, has released a comprehensive report on the effects of the discriminatory "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy that continues to oppress American service members.

The 54-page document, entitled, "Uniform Discrimination: The 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' Policy of the U.S. Military," differs from other reports on the policy, according to Allyson Collins, the report's primary researcher and writer, in that it compares the U.S. policy to the non-discriminatory policies of its allies; demonstrates through international law why the policy is a human rights issue; and looks at other reports on the policy to make the conclusion that there is no justification for the anti-gay policy, and no justification for not protecting service members from harassment.

"The policy itself has always been justified by the notion that gays would undermine unit cohesion," Collins told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "But they have never put forward proof ... and this imaginary disruption is nothing compared to the very real disruption faced by service members perceived to be gay."

In fact, said Collins, what the report shows is that the policy virtually guarantees harassment of suspected gay service members, whether or not these service members are in fact gay. Interviews with military personnel, as published in the report, show that repeated hostility and threats toward gays create a climate where anyone suspected of homosexuality is likely to seek discharge simply out of concern for his or her safety.

"I think the question for the



HRW's Allyson Collins

sion in Desert Storm, but were discharged upon their return, to the assault of a marine at a gay bar that led to a criminal investigation against the victim instead of the perpetrators.

"The price of serving my country is too high," said Corporal Kevin Smith, gay bashing victim, "if the military puts more of a premium on investigating my private life than in assisting me with bringing those who assaulted me to justice."

The report, in the works since 1999, was released last month. For Collins, both its timing and its source are of importance.

"A group like Lambda [Legal Defense Fund] or Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, while their voices on anti-gay policies are important, are also expected. We wanted to put forth something that was not necessarily expected," said Collins, an associate director at the Human Rights Watch office in San Francisco.

Because Human Rights Watch is also mostly known for its international work and criticisms of human rights issues abroad, targeting the U.S. for its own human rights abuses is significant, said Collins, particularly since government rhetoric around invading Afghanistan and Iraq consistently mentions the fight for freedom and equality in other countries.

"The administration is talking about the exact rights its troops are still fighting for," said Collins. "If you're going to use the language, live it."

Collins laughingly recalled the military's response to her report, when the Pentagon issued a statement to a major television network claiming that the DADT policy is applied fairly.

"You can't apply a discriminatory law," said Collins, "in a non-discriminatory way." ▶

government, especially in light of the gay-inclusive military policies of all of its major allies, is what is particularly wrong with U.S. troops that the Pentagon can't trust them among gay peers?" said Collins. "The policy is an insult to the troops. And it encourages violent reactions, in that service members who are not overtly against gays in the military become suspected of being gay themselves."

The policy also has a disproportionate effect on women, according to the report, many of whom are called "dykes" when they refuse the romantic advances of males, prompting them to date men they do not necessarily like just to remain safe.

"The policy handicaps yet another tool to harass women," said Collins. "It is not an empty threat to tell someone, 'If you don't go out with me, I'll report you as a lesbian.'"

In 2001, according to the report, women accounted for 14 percent of the armed forces, but 30 percent of the DADT discharges.

Specific incidents recounted in the report demonstrate just how hypocritical the policy is — from the fact that gay troops were apparently not a threat to unit cohesion.

The full report can be found at [www.hrw.org](http://www.hrw.org).

## Woman-to-woman HIV transmission linked to sex toys

by Liz Highleyman

A rare case of woman-to-woman HIV documented in a medical journal points to the use of sex toys as a possible transmission route.

In the February 1 electronic edition of the *Journal of Clinical Infectious Diseases*, doctors reported on a case of woman-to-woman sexual transmission of HIV that appears linked to the use of sex toys.

As reported by Drs. Helena Kwakwa and Michel Ghobrial, a 20-year-old Philadelphia woman became infected with HIV after testing negative six months earlier. She reported being in a monogamous relationship with an HIV-positive woman. Resistance testing showed that she was infected with an HIV strain very similar to that of her partner.

The newly-infected woman reported that she had never had intercourse with a man, received a

blood transfusion, injected drugs, or received a tattoo or body piercing. She did engage in oral sex, but because she had good oral health with no gum disease, the doctors ruled out oral transmission as a likely cause.

The woman also reported sharing sex toys. Although she said they did not do so during menstruation, this activity did occasionally draw blood. The doctors concluded that "the route of transmission was probably use of sex toys, used vigorously enough to cause exchange of blood-tinged body fluids."

Carol Queen, staff sexologist at Good Vibrations in San Francisco,

agreed with that assessment.

"While it is not impossible to imagine transmission simply through vaginal secretions," said Queen, "in any vaginal or anal sex in which transmission could happen through sex toy sharing, blood is by far the most plausible explanation."

According to the doctors, this is the first reported case of female-to-female sexual transmission of HIV supported by identification of similar viral mutations in the two partners. Studies to date have not shown statistical evidence of sexual transmission of HIV between women, but the true risk is

page 19 ▶



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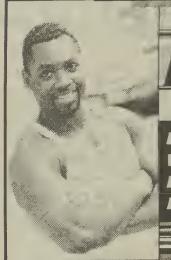


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The full report can be found at [www.hrw.org](http://www.hrw.org).

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## A dubious trial

**S**elf-described marijuana guru Ed Rosenthal was convicted in federal court last week on felony cultivation charges and faces the possibility of life in prison when he is sentenced in June. Rosenthal was growing pot in Oakland with the city's blessing under terms to implement voter-approved Proposition 215, the medical marijuana initiative. Unfortunately, the jurors never heard that pivotal aspect of Rosenthal's defense. In fact, U.S. District Judge Charles Breyer (brother of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer) actually took over questioning of a defense witness at one point during the trial, and effectively barred all references to medicinal marijuana. The judge also excluded evidence that the city of Oakland had deputized Rosenthal in 1998 as an agent to supply medical cannabis to a local cooperative.

Now, just a few days after their decision to convict, at least seven of the 12 jurors have come out against the federal government, saying they were duped into reaching their verdict and that had they known about the medical marijuana connection, they would have voted to acquit Rosenthal.

If only they would have reached that decision while they were deliberating, the case could have resulted in an outright acquittal or at the least a hung jury. Either of those verdicts would have handed the federal government a stinging loss, rather than a huge victory that prosecutors now claim. While the judge and prosecutors did everything they could to keep the complete truth from the jury, the men and women serving on the panel should have seriously questioned the appearance of Alameda County Supervisor Nata Miley, who testified for the defense. Miley mentioned that he had met Rosenthal "in the context of Proposition 215." Breyer told the jurors to disregard the reference. The judge also took over questioning of

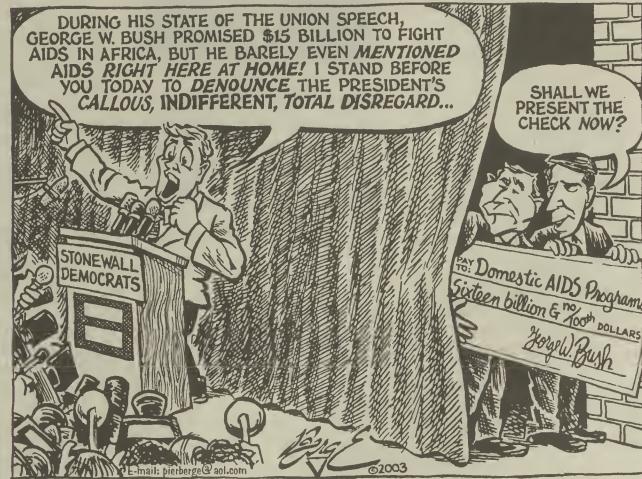
Miley — a highly unusual occurrence — which in our view clearly interfered with the defense's ability to present its side of the case.

We have long known that the feds were itching to get a conviction in their zealous effort to stamp out the will of state voters who overwhelmingly passed Proposition 215 in 1996. In this case, that conviction came at too high a price. Justice was not served in the Rosenthal trial. The defense was not allowed to present its case and jurors were not afforded the opportunity to reach a verdict based on all

of the facts.

Rosenthal's defense team plans to ask for a new trial, and if that motion is denied, they will appeal the conviction. Hopefully, the appeals court will reverse this travesty of justice and allow a new trial in which all the facts can be presented. We don't need the federal government imposing draconian laws on us — we have spoken with regard to medical marijuana and even the California Supreme Court has ruled that patients using the drug for medical reasons have limited immunity from criminal prosecution. ▼

## Editorial



## Carpetbaggers chop AIDS services

by Patrick Monette-Shaw

**T**he San Francisco AIDS Foundation's decision to further slash its staff and chop client services is disturbing [*"SFAF to cut services and staff," January 30*]. Particularly troubling — though not particularly surprising — is that SFAF's executive director, Pat Christen, is not telling us the whole truth: Known facts presented here counter misinformation currently being misrepresented by SFAF.

SFAF's reported \$700,000 shortfall is suspicious. On February 14, 2002 the Department of Public Health threatened to cut a \$383,179 contract to SFAF for emotional and practical support; by the time the Health Commission approved this contract in November 2002, the contract had doubled to \$769,621, presenting SFAF a windfall of \$380K not planned for in its current budget. So why is SFAF now claiming a \$700,000 shortfall?

Last September, SFAF released its current year budget to the public fully three months late, claiming it wanted to ensure its revenue projections were realistic. The current FY budget was set at \$20,729,115; down \$3.8 million from the \$24,614,287 budget for FY '01-'02, not the \$2.5 million gap reported last week. The actual difference between the two periods should have been \$4.9 million, but in order to hide from the public its dire financial condition, this year's budget included an extra \$1.02 million, by combining its separate HIV Prevention Project (needle exchange) affiliate's budget into SFAF's master budget.

Subtracting the current \$700,000 "shortfall" and next year's reported budget deficit of \$1.6 million, one would expect the current year budget of \$20.7 million would only shrink to \$18.4 million next year, rather than the reported \$16.6 million, unless of course there's an unreported additional budget deficit of \$1.8 million SFAF has not acknowledged. That said, this prominent AIDS organization has seen its budget plummet \$8 million (from \$24.6 to \$16.6 million) across a mere three years, despite padding its budget by incorporating

the HPP affiliate budget. This cannot all be explained by Christen's reported weak excuses, and the answer lies, in part, by examining — in Enron vs. Arthur Andersen fashion — SFAF's financial documents.

By comparing SFAF's last three audited financial statements, we learn SFAF's total net assets stood at \$7.9 million at the end of June 2000; at the end of June 2002, PriceWaterhouseCoopers (its new auditor) reports SFAF's net assets total \$3.7 million, as of June 2002. (SFAF's previous auditors, Deloitte & Touche, were sued by Adelphia Communications in November 2002 over allegations of failing to report self dealing, financial chicanery, professional negligence, and breach of contract.)

In this two-year period, SFAF potentially either released from restrictions, or sold off, \$4.16 million in total net assets. Shockingly, during a single FY, between June 2001 and June 2002, SFAF's cash and cash equivalents soared \$1.83 million, from \$547,359 to \$2,380,078 — a disturbing fact when total net assets simultaneously plummeted. What has SFAF done with the unexplained missing net assets, and the infusion of cash and cash equivalents? Packed it into a carpetbag, intending to flee the area? SFAF has slashed, and continues to slash, both staff and direct services from its Bay Area presence in order, possibly, to divert resources to its newest nonprofit "affiliate" — the Pangaea Global AIDS Foundation.

According to a November 18 *New York Times* article, SFAF "... diverted \$1 million of its money to help establish Pangaea, an affiliate with its own board and Ms. Christen as president." Does this mean she now earns two salaries, one at Pangaea and one at SFAF? The \$1 million diversion is not substantiated, however. According to the PriceWaterhouseCoopers audited report dated October 2002, SFAF provided grants to Pangaea totaling \$5.92 million, in addition to having grants payable to Pangaea at the end of June 2002 of \$2.86 million. Grants awarded to, and grants remaining

payable to, Pangaea total \$8.78 million.

Of this amount, only half of the grants have been forthcoming from an \$11 million grant Pfizer Corporation gave SFAF to launch Pangaea. The audited statement reports that as of June 2002, Pfizer had released only \$4.4 million to SFAF to march over to Uganda. To award \$8.78 million to Pangaea, SFAF dipped into its own funds — total net assets, cash and cash equivalents, etc. — to cover the remaining \$4.4 million, despite SFAF's promise to its own board of directors it wouldn't divert funds intended for the Bay Area to its overseas operations, unless revenues were realized. Small wonder SFAF has chopped its staff, and disturbingly, services to clients, in the Bay Area.

The *Times* article further reported that "Ms. Christen said some people at the foundation were wary about telling donors that money was being spent overseas. 'But we've always been very honest with our donors about what we do with our resources,' she said." Well, um, no! SFAF has *not* been honest with its donors, any more than it is being honest with the *Bay Area Reporter*, or SFAF's Bay Area clients. Various SFAF fundraising promotional materials I have accumulated have not once told people registering for its AIDS Walks, its new LifeCycle or its old California AIDS Ride, nor its AIDS Marathon that *any* portion of funds raised would be sent overseas. SFAF's pre-event come-ons always promise: "Come walk/ride/marathon with us; your efforts will assist 36 Bay Area beneficiaries organizations helping people living with HIV/AIDS in the Bay Area." Not other promises.

The Bay Area is facing massive federal, state, and city AIDS service cuts. SFAF's cash-laden carpetbags should focus on Bay Area needs, not be carpetbagged overseas. ▼

## Guest Opinion

very honest with our donors about what we do with our resources," she said. "Well, um, no! SFAF has *not* been honest with its donors, any more than it is being honest with the *Bay Area Reporter*, or SFAF's Bay Area clients. Various SFAF fundraising promotional materials I have accumulated have not once told people registering for its AIDS Walks, its new LifeCycle or its old California AIDS Ride, nor its AIDS Marathon that *any* portion of funds raised would be sent overseas. SFAF's pre-event come-ons always promise: "Come walk/ride/marathon with us; your efforts will assist 36 Bay Area beneficiaries organizations helping people living with HIV/AIDS in the Bay Area." Not other promises.

The Bay Area is facing massive federal, state, and city AIDS service cuts. SFAF's cash-laden carpetbags should focus on Bay Area needs, not be carpetbagged overseas. ▼

Patrick Monette-Shaw is an AIDS funding accountability watchdog; for specific details on service cuts proposed by SFAF, see related article on page 2.

## LETTERS

## Prevention requires participation

I thought that Matthew Bajko's article on "bug chasers" would have been very relevant and timely in about 1998-1999, when the rise in new HIV seroconversions started to become a noticeable trend, and the Stop AIDS Project was holding community forums on barebacking (*"Media spotlight on 'bug chasers,' January 30"*). Since then it has become a fact of life for many that despite the alarming evidence to the contrary, AIDS is over. We cannot blame the HIV prevention agencies for this.

HIV prevention requires participation; if no one can be bothered to participate then there is nothing an agency can do. It really is that simple. The transmission method for the virus has been known for 20 years; it hasn't changed. Meanwhile HIV prevention agencies have been under attack, first from within the gay community for being "the sex police," and then from outside the community for "promoting gay sex." If agencies want to address subjects regarding HIV they now need to navigate a "materials review" committee to make sure that heterosexuals from the Midwest won't be scandalized by sexually suggestive material being produced with their hard-earned tax dollars. Do you remember the public outcry when this happened? If you don't it is probably because there wasn't one. So guess what, you can't blame the HIV prevention agencies anymore, you're on your own now ... good luck.

Matt Pipes  
San Francisco

## Courage lacking

Your recent piece on Esera Tuao's scholarship fund quotes PFLAG Executive Director David Tseng's praise for the former NFL nose tackle's courage (*"PFLAG unveils scholarship program," January 30"*). What courage? He came out after retirement! There are still closeted pro athletes playing right now. If Tuao really had the balls, one of these athletes could come out now as the second queer to come out, then the third, the fourth and so on. Thanks to his "courage," we're still at square one ... waiting for the real first to come out.

Darla Kelly  
Daly City, California

## SFAF and budget cuts

Regarding "SFAF to cut services and staff," (*January 30*): In the first paragraph of this story it is stated, "More budget cuts and staff layoffs are in store for the San Francisco AIDS Foundation ... and there will also be service cuts."

This is followed up toward the end of the fifth paragraph that Pat Christen's nominal pay cut of 12 percent pay cut last year "bringing her salary down to \$182,188, not including benefits."

If Pat was concerned, truly concerned, about cuts in services to those in need, as well as staff reduction, one would think that she would humble herself and cut her salary either in half to \$91,094 or even by two-thirds to \$60,729, which is still a livable wage and more than the average person makes.

Ah, but this is what happens when a single person is given too much money and too much power. They tend to forget those who they are servicing and focus primarily on themselves.

I encourage the gay community to step forward and demand that she take another pay cut so that the people who badly need services from the SFAF are not denied or lose them completely.

The SFAF and Christen can be contacted with your concerns at: San Francisco AIDS Foundation, 995 Market Street #200, San Francisco, CA 94103; (415) 487-3000; or feedback@saf.org.

Steven Keller  
San Francisco

## Police and transgenders

Thanks for the fair coverage of activist Robert Haaland's suit against the police for alleged sexual assault (*"TG assault case headed for settlement," January 30*). This is an important case for our community because it highlights what transgender activists have been telling us for years: that the abuse of transgender folks at the hands of police officers happens everywhere, even here in San Francisco.

I've heard some people criticize the settlement because of Robert's politics, but what causes Robert fights for is irrelevant. No one should be abused by the police, no one should suffer what he did. That is the only issue here. Our city needs to take a strong stand against all abuse by the police. Not only through this settlement but also by addressing the concerns of the transgender community. The Police Department needs to immediately take every step possible to ensure that the type of abuse Robert suffered can never happen again.

Tommi Avicoli Mecca  
San Francisco

## About those 'gym bunnies'

In response to "Down on gym bunnies," from Doug Christoff (*Mailstrom, January 16*): I do agree that there are some "gym bunnies" who are terribly egotistical in our city, and I do believe that egotism and self-righteousness are major character weaknesses in our community (and every other community). I don't think, however, that it's fair to judge our whole city of San Francisco by the actions of a few. I don't think Mr. Christoff had time to be rejected by everyone who goes to a gym in our city. In fact, Mr. C., did you have time on your visit to get to know anyone or were you, like so many others, (myself included, sometimes) just in a hurry for a quick fix?

I apologize for this last statement, because I don't know Mr. Christoff — and he certainly doesn't know me or any of my good friends in this community. I have male friends, some of whom are so-called gym bunnies, as well as the entire gamut of body types, colors, tastes, etc., who are teachers who make a difference in the lives of underprivileged children, who are a wide variety of caregivers to the sick and the old and the mentally ill. I have friends who help drug addicts and alcoholics recover, who feed the homeless. I have friends who do a fantastic amount of hard, good work and provide services to our community — both gay and as a whole. And I would even go so far as to say that the vast majority of people in the gay male community do a lot more good than bad. I just don't think that pointing at a character weakness of a few men you encountered here, doing whatever it was you were doing and saying, and stating that they are responsible for all our city's social ills is fair. In fact, it's pretty lame.

I have known many gym bunnies who have been or are major players in the fight against HIV. These bunnies are some of the best men I've known in my life. And I've known a few big, fat, evil queens who have done a lot of harm to others. Of course, those BFEQs don't represent anybody but themselves.

Finally, Mr. C., the gay community has many social and community ills within it that we need to address. Egotism certainly is one of them. Self-pity is another. I know that those are problems we, as human beings, do need to deal with. Perhaps your time would be better spent working on the social ills in your home state and city. Considering the history of Dallas ...

A.R. Anderson  
San Francisco

## Rude gays are everywhere

I am compelled to respond to Doug Christoff's letter (*Mailstrom, January 16*). I can assure him that San Francisco is not the worst place in the world, as he paints it. The problem of rude gay men is everywhere, always has been, and is getting worse.

My friends and I often wonder where this notion of attitude, ego, and disregard of other people — especially in the gay community — ever became "cool." If anything is to be learned by AIDS, hate crimes, and unfair treatment it is that life is short and we should treat each other if not with love, at least respect. I wrote a similar letter to a local gay paper in Delaware and they chose not to print it. Further, attend a gay contest and listen to what the contestants say: Everybody says the crowd pleaser, "I wanna cure AIDS," but no one wants to go the distance and speak out about real harm we do to each other. How many times do we see people we'd like to get to know, but don't approach for fear of being "shot down."

No, Doug, San Francisco has loads of friendly, happy, respectful gay men and women — but like everywhere else, rudeness also exists.

Ron Sapp  
Dover, Delaware

## Board games

Regarding Wayne Friday's January 16 column ("SF Dems red as board votes Green"): Our Man Friday posits that Supervisor Sophie Maxwell, "outsmarted herself" and ultimately cost the Democratic Party the board presidency and then surreptitiously blames Democratic Party Chair Jane Morrison for the erstwhile defeat. I believe it is far more likely that the line for the Democrats' "embarrass[ment]" can be drawn directly to City Hall's Room 200.

Rather than Maxwell "sitting tough," it is far more likely that the mayor's troops (Gavin "well re-cueuse me" Newsom and Bevan "I'm independent" Duffy) were given marching orders to hold the fort in the belief that Supervisor Matt Gonzalez would blink first and a Democrat would ascend to the big chair. What we got was an abject lesson in leadership from Aaron Peskin (bravo!) at which point the vote was predictable: Newcomer Fiona Ma (fresh from her Democratic Party-endorsed win) and mayoral candidate Tom Ammiano (needing the Democratic endorsement for November) voted for Maxwell. Peskin and Jake McGoldrick, both elected in 2000 on progressive, anti-crony/corruption platforms, stuck with their classmate, Gonzalez.

How does this point back to Room 200? The arm

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## Mailstrom

◀ previous page

twisting at the DCCC which garnered the Democratic Party endorsement and subsequent election of Duffy is instructive. A majority of the sitting Board of Supervisors and, with the exception of Supervisor Tony Hall, all of Gonzalez's votes, had endorsed Hansen. (The DCCC might want to also be mindful of the supes' endorsements in future nonpartisan races.) Indeed, all of Gonzalez's votes were the class of 2000 who clearly could not hand a win to Room 200's hand-picked successor and newest board member thereby empowering the mayor's agenda.

That Wayne Friday finds fault outside Room 200 is no surprise given that he is a political appointee of the mayor.

**Rick Galbreath**  
San Francisco

*[Editor's note: Wayne Friday was appointed by the mayor to serve on the Police Commission several years ago, a fact that has been reported on in these pages.]*

### Kick the habit

Thank you to Paula Martinac for pointing out the difficulty of getting LGBTs to address the toll that smoking takes on the queer community ("Queer as smoke," *Lesbian Notions*, January 16). Here's some local information: one of the unsung heroes of our community is Gloria Soliz, who has been conducting cessation classes for LGBT and HIV-positive smokers for more than a decade in San Francisco. Her program, "The Last Drag," is administered by the Coalition of Lavender-Americans on Smoking and Health and enjoys an outstanding quit rate. If you're interested in the free classes, check out [www.lastdrag.org](http://www.lastdrag.org).

**Naphthali Offen**  
San Francisco

### Shame on Stop AIDS Project

The Stop AIDS Project's ad campaign, employing graphic images of men that display physical side effects of some HIV medications, such as facial wasting and fat redistribution, are disgusting and nauseous. What the gay community does not need now is to start a war of "us" versus "them," the "healthy" (and one I imagine is supposed to assume attractive), versus the "unhealthy" (and unattractive). Gee guys, maybe employing some mean-spirited lookism will make those young gay guys stop getting HIV. News flash: When I became HIV positive in the late 1970s or early 1980s, I did not know it was happening. There was no knowledge of safe versus unsafe sex. When I found out I was positive, I stopped having unsafe sex. The Stop AIDS Project should stop demonizing guys with HIV/AIDS. It's revolting that they exploit sick people the way they do. When I was in San Francisco recently on vacation I gave a volunteer from the Stop AIDS Project \$10. I truly regret that decision now. Shame on them. I hope they go out of business real soon. Maybe the feds should be looking at its funding after all.

**Chris Koppel**  
Washington, D.C.

### Questioning the status quo

I read with great interest Mark Murphy's rebuttal (*Mailstrom, January 9*) of the original article written by Matthew Bajko ("Four nonprofit agencies weather dreary financial year," December 26), where sadly, Mr. Murphy proves to this citizen advocate the worthiness of the work I quietly perform on behalf of those less able to fend for themselves.

I find it unfortunate that Mr. Murphy deemed it necessary to make a personal attack upon my worthiness or validity. Certainly he's allowed his opinion and offerings of public comment. I don't believe, however, that it serves either his agenda or the HIV/AIDS service providers well when reducing oneself to character attacks.

I don't believe it either necessary or a requirement to be associated with the more known circuit groups or organizations deemed worthy or honorable as Mr. Murphy seems to think is some mandate to be taken seriously.

I tirelessly have to remind everyone, and most notably Tom Nolan, Mike Smith, and John Lipp among others, that as long as taxpayer dollars are even a small percentage of the funds they receive, those of us in the community with concerns have the absolute right and frankly, a duty, to respond and address what may be perceived as a concern.

If, as Mr. Murphy stated, he really prefers to have more faith in friends and those on the inside as his best sources of reliable information when posturing or dealing with the status quo, then let that general factor be your guide as to whom has more character and credibility.

It's not pleasant to be deemed a crackpot by someone I've never met and I challenge you sir, to e-mail me at [autopaulg@aol.com](mailto:autopaulg@aol.com) and let's have lunch. I am more than prepared to answer and address all your questions as to the veracity and record

of facts as I know them. If you think it was necessary in your heart to paint me as some sort of fraud or nuisance, I doubt we've got much to talk about. However, if you care to come to the public table of this community in the future I strongly suggest you get your facts correct and refrain from personal attacks to those in opposition or those who question the status quo.

I stand on the merits of the facts I am privy to and refuse to bury my head in the sand wishing the problem would go away. I don't mind being the lone voice or performing my volunteer work to Maitri House or sending contributions to PRC without fanfare or public rewards.

I thought the idea of a community was to have open debate in all matters that affect every citizen within that community.

**Paul Graham**  
San Francisco

### To the president

Mr. Bush, if you really want to cut taxes and stimulate the economy, lay off all the local, state, and national politicians (including yourself), reducing their wages to zero, and then hire them back at minimum wage. Introduce this concept as a constitutional amendment, that no politician can receive more than minimum wage for their expertise at running (or is it bankrupting) this country. This will separate the men from the boys. Also, if your predecessor, Ronald Regan, had not undermined the research for alternative energy sources (for instance, solar energy) in the 1980s, we would not be seeking to conquer other countries (Iraq will be the first of many) to steal their own oil supplies.

**Douglas Alexander Matley**  
San Francisco

### The state budget crisis

Governor Davis has released his 2003-04 state budget proposal. I'm sure everyone will find something in this document that they hate. Even the cost of a state ID card is going up (from \$6 to \$20) unless you are a senior citizen. As the late Randy Shilts might have put it, the butcher's bill is coming due for all of the irresponsible government spending that has gone on in recent years. Most state residents will not be impacted all that much, unless you happen to lose your job in retailing (the sales tax is going up) or in government (this sector of the economy will probably shrink for a while).

Unfortunately, the people who are going to be hurt the most by this budget are the ones least able to defend themselves and the ones least able to game the system – the people with AIDS or other disabilities who don't have cell phones or high speed Internet connections and are not strong enough to hold down a job "off the books," even as they collect disability benefits. Why is it so necessary for the state of California to continue to provide massive post-secondary school subsidies for students from wealthy families? There seems to be something very perverse in the state continuing to subsidize the children of well-paid executives, professionals, old money types, etc. even as it prepares to slash medical benefits for the very poorest members of our society.

Warsaw Ghetto of 1941 meet Castro Village of 2003. The deaths in the Warsaw Ghetto came about as part of Hitler's "Final Solution." The deaths that will take place in the Castro will just happen. No one will take responsibility for them.

If the city of San Francisco is to prevent a human catastrophe, it is going to have to change the way it does business and it cannot count on the state senators from Palmdale or Thousand Oaks for any help. Even the governor has signaled in his budget document that he cares more about the prison lobby than about the poor. The Board of Supervisors will have to decide whether it is more important to save lives or to subsidize the opera, ballet, and symphony with its hotel tax money. The Redevelopment Agency should cancel its proposed \$7.5 million grant to the new Mexican Museum in Yerba Buena Center and redirect the money to low income housing. The homeless problem in San Francisco is likely to get worse before it gets better. I would encourage Mark Leno, Carole Migden, and Bevan Dufty to lobby the San Francisco Jewish Museum to return the \$2.75 million in state grants it received during Governor Davis's first term (to be used toward a new museum in Yerba Buena Center), or to make an equivalent donation to a local social service agency.

**David Klug**  
Lafayette, California

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## POLITICS

# Herrera earning high marks at City Hall

by Wayne Friday

**M**arking the recent completion of his first year in what many call the second most powerful job in the city, front page stories in two statewide legal dailies, the *Daily Journal* and the *Recorder*, have brought City Attorney **Dennis Herrera** considerable attention in political and legal circles for extensively documenting what appears to have been an impressive start to a very promising political career for the likeable Herrera.

Indeed, Herrera's successes in his first year have already fueled some speculation that he could be well positioned to jump into the race for mayor later this year, and Mayor **Willie Brown** himself has suggested that Herrera would be a candidate. Herrera, however, insists that he is not a candidate to replace Brown in November and made that quite clear again to the *Bay Area Reporter* during a telephone interview.

"This is a high-profile position involved in every aspect of city government," Herrera explained. "It's not surprising that any city attorney could be considered a legitimate candidate for mayor, but I'm not a candidate this year."



City Attorney Dennis Herrera

General **Bill Lockyer** last August when he and Herrera jointly announced their \$46.8 million settlement with Atlantic Richfield Corp. to fix leaking underground gas tanks. "Other city attorneys don't always have the willingness to do battle with the rich and powerful," Lockyer said. "Dennis is ready to do that."

Herrera has earned particularly high marks from the LGBT community in San Francisco, a community that overwhelmingly supported his election in 2001. From the start, Herrera successfully wooed former Bar Association of San Francisco President **Therese Stewart** from her position as a partner at the high-powered law firm of Howard, Rice, Nemirovsky, Canady, Falk & Rabin to come to City Hall to serve as his chief deputy city attorney. A highly regarded litigator who helped lead the successful defense of the city's equal benefits ordinance, Stewart's appointment makes her one of the highest-ranking LGBT law enforcement officials in the city, overseeing new initiatives, appeals, and complex litigation for the 200-attorney office.

Last summer, Herrera joined then-Board of Supervisors President **Tom Ammiano** in taking three pharmaceutical companies to task for reckless marketing of HIV/AIDS drugs, calling widespread attention to misleading advertisements that portray a "kinder, gentler" HIV, minimizing the still life-threatening dangers of AIDS.

In October, Herrera authored a legal opinion making San Francisco the first county in the state to end the practice of tax reassessment for property shared by same-sex domestic partners, following a partner's death. Herrera's ruling, which was supported by then-Assessor **Doris Ward** and is also backed by current Assessor **Mabel Teng**, has been hailed by the LGBT community for recognizing the equality of domestic partnerships and making a real difference in the lives of surviving domestic partners.

Herrera has gotten into that area where people are loathe to go," Supervisor **Aaron Peskin** told the *Daily Journal*. "That's waste, fraud, and abuse. People talk about it when they're campaigning, but usually once people get into office they go soft; Herrera has been fearless."

A similar sentiment was echoed by California Attorney

to the state's taxation board seems to ensure that Herrera's position on tax reassessment equality for domestic partners will stand.

Herrera was similarly successful in beating back an effort by the airline industry to invalidate San Francisco's equal benefits ordinance last June, making a convincing case that state registration for domestic partnerships did not preempt the San Francisco ordinance, as several major airlines had claimed.

In one of the legal feature stories written for the *Recorder*, former Iran-Contra prosecutor and widely acclaimed attorney **John Keker** described Herrera as "a consensus sort of person," praising the new city attorney for being "exactly what this city needs in this new era of leadership."

Though Herrera has definitely ruled out a race for mayor this year, such praise from highly regarded figures like Keker and others is forceful testimony that Herrera has what it takes should he consider a bid for higher office, and legal observers and political pundits alike acknowledge that San Francisco's city attorney would be a formidable contender to replace the term-limited Bill Lockyer for California attorney general, should he choose that course in 2006.

Herrera is a talented Hispanic in a "majority-minority" state where Latino voters often mean the margin of victory. In a likely bid for statewide office, Herrera would be free to define himself as a successful fighter for public integrity without the kind of political baggage that has so often plagued San Francisco candidates in more conservative parts of the state. To be sure, Herrera has had a good — very good — first year in office and from all appearances, this guy has a bright future in California public life. Hell, he's one politician I'm proud to call a personal friend; they don't come any finer.

## Politics and people

The **Susan Leal** for Mayor campaign got a huge boost Tuesday, when Assemblyman **Mark Leno** (D-San Francisco) endorsed her candidacy. Leno cited her financial skills, government and business management experience, and commitment to preserving opportunity for all San Franciscans in his announcement.

California's two Democratic U.S. senators, **Dianne Feinstein** and **Barbara Boxer**, took aim last week at the sport utility vehicle industry by introducing separate bills that would make the biggest gas-guzzlers less attractive to business and raise the fuel efficiency of all the models. SUVs are among the most popular vehicles on the road, but because of their size and weight, they also use more gasoline and create more pollutants than most cars, and no, I don't know precisely how many SUVs the families of the two California senators own.

Realizing how urgent President George W. Bush insists it is that we go to war to replace Iraq's **Saddam Hussein** — now, next month — here's a quote from President Bush: "Most Americans know instinctively why we are in the gulf. They know we have to stop Saddam now, not later. They know this brutal dictator will do any-

thing to

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page 11 ►

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# Exorcising the transgendered demons

by Gwendolyn Ann Smith

A couple of recent incidents have reminded me of why it is important to be an out and visible transgendered woman. First off, the murder of Nizah Morris in Philadelphia. The police have finally decided that yes, indeed, Ms. Morris was murdered, but I wonder if they would have finally come around if not for the insistence of such a large and active community that made its voice heard. How many others may have been lost in Pennsylvania and elsewhere, without the benefit of the pressure brought to bear on the local police? Too many, I am sure.

Then there is a recent decision or two from the Vatican. At first, the Catholic Church decided that transgendered people do not exist. My initial thought was that I didn't have to pay rent this month. After all, if I don't exist, then I obviously didn't need a place to stay.

Of course, the Vatican made things a little clearer in a confidential document that — whoops — ended up in the public eye. Vatican officials have apparently figured out that transgendered people do exist, and as such, need to be expelled from their church — and I quote — "for the good of all the souls."

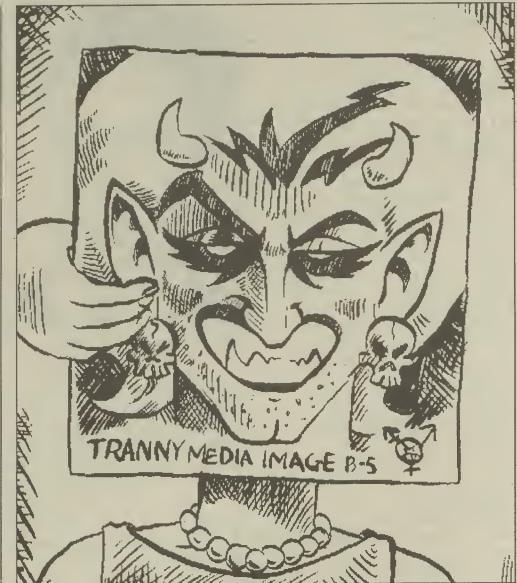
I wonder if anyone took into account the "souls" of those being expelled?

At any rate, I guess it is progress to go from nonexistence to expulsion in such a brief period of time. After all, it took the church more than 350 years to reverse its decision on Galileo's crazy notion that the Earth revolved around the sun. At this rate, transgendered people will be welcomed into the Catholic clergy in the early 2360s.

Doesn't the Vatican have more important things to focus on right now? Maybe the pedophilia scandal?

The third thing is a story out of St. Louis, Missouri. One that really brought it all home for me. In this case, a transgendered woman, approximately eight years after she started living and working in her preferred gender role, opted to chaperone her kid on a school field trip to the state capitol. It's not the first time that she's been involved at the school, and there hasn't been an issue with this in the past.

This time, a parent or two got wind that this woman was going to serve as a chaperone. Word is they already had an ax to grind to begin with. The night after this field trip, these two hop on the phone and start telling every other



parent about the "cross-dressing dad" who was with their children.

You can guess how well this went over. In fact, it even ended up on the national news. That's where I come in, as I found myself

a guest on that snake pit of a show, *The O'Reilly Factor* over on Fox News.

They, like so many other outlets that covered this story, had turned this transgendered woman into the devil incarnate. She opted to remain outside of the spotlight — I certainly do not blame her — so the media made up their own vision of this woman, comparing her to "men in belly dancing outfits" or "in leather outfits with whips and chains." No, I'm not making that up.

So what was she wearing? A sweater, a pair of women's pants, a little makeup, and some nice-looking shoes. Oh, and she was wearing her hair in a feminine style. None of the kids on the trip acted unkindly to her, nor did any other educators or chaperones on the trip have any issue with this woman. She wasn't passing out copies of *My Gender Workbook* to the kids, either — just serving as any other chaperone on a school trip.

Scary, isn't it?

So I ended up trying to counter some of the images that the media created by appearing on the television program, to take the other side of the issue. And while I feel I held my own during the discussion, I wasn't really there to play

some televised chess game with Bill O'Reilly. I was there to represent.

I was there because I wanted to show people — in this case, the fine upstanding viewers of Fox News — just what a transgendered woman really looked like.

For me, this is key. It is important that people actually see just what this all means, this thing called transgender. It is far too easy for people to demonize us when they are only given pictures of demons, rather than seeing the real people.

If you assume the worst of a person, then it becomes very easy to declare them unfit to serve as a chaperone on a class trip that their own child is attending. It becomes even easier to dismiss the "soul" of such people.

It even becomes easier to kill us, and to dismiss our deaths as just another accidental death. Prick us and we do bleed, I assure you.

I do know that not every transgendered man or woman out there is able — or even willing — to be out about being transgendered. In the world we live in today, the risks are many, and I can certainly appreciate that. There have been times in my own life that I have had to remain very safely tucked away in the woodwork.

Yet for me at this time in my life, with what I see around me, I simply have to make my voice heard. I hope that there are enough others willing to be visible and out as transgendered, so we may dispel our detractors' petty demons.

Maybe the Vatican can lend us some Holy water for the job. ▼

## Transgender forum in Marin Tuesday

by Zak Szymanski

What's it like to be transgender in Marin County? A free public forum at Spectrum will address that question on Tuesday, February 11, from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Spectrum, Marin County's LGBT center, is a widely used resource whose clientele includes approximately 50 percent heterosexually-identified people looking for information for their class-

rooms, clients, and family members. With that in mind, Tuesday's forum hopes to educate the entire Marin community in an effort to promote understanding and decrease hate crimes.

"Everyone is talking about the tragic murder of Newark teen Gwen Araujo, but few of us really have the information we want and need to understand our transgender neighbors in Marin, and to prevent these crimes from taking place here," said event organizer Cristin Brew.

Participants include San Francisco's Dylan Vade of the Transgender Law Center and activist Levi Stolove; Novato's Gay-Straight Alliance president Sheera Duerigen; San Rafael therapist Anne Vitale; and a handful of transgender Marin residents.

Discussion, questions, and a free pizza dinner accompany Tuesday's event; RSVP to (415) 457-1115, ext. 203. Spectrum is located at 1000 Sir Francis Drake Blvd., #10, in San Anselmo. ▼

# Dampened spirits

by Jane Warner

**I** 8th and Noe, January 28, 11:15 p.m.: A man walking near 7-Eleven was approached by another man who asked him for some spare change. When he declined, the panhandler became angry, blocked his path, and shouted, "You are a liar. I know you have money." Fearing he was about to be robbed, the man punched the aggressive panhandler in the stomach, sending him backwards. "You better be ready to hurt me if you are going to take something or I'm going to hurt you," the man cautioned. Suddenly another man came from behind and put him in a headlock as the panhandler punched the victim on the left side of his face with an unknown object he was holding in his fist. The victim lost consciousness. When he awoke about 20 minutes later, he was on the ground in a private driveway. He had been stripped down to his underwear and urinated on, and his denim jacket, blue jeans, house keys, and wallet were missing. The man walked to his residence a short distance away and called police. Suspect number one is described as a Caucasian male, 35-40 years old, 5 feet 11 inches tall and weighing 200 pounds, with blond hair, blue eyes, full facial hair, and wearing a black hooded sweatshirt and dark jogging pants rolled up



to his knees. Suspect number two was also Caucasian, approximately 5 feet 9 inches, 165 pounds, wearing torn blue jeans.

#### Anonymous donor

**J**erusalem Shoppe, 313 Noe, February 1, 6:00 a.m.: A woman who lives across from Jerusalem Shoppe heard a loud noise, looked out her window, and saw a man breaking the window of the jewelry store with a large stick. The woman called 911 as she watched the suspect reach into the shattered glass and take several items from the window display. The woman ran out of her apartment for a better look and saw the suspect stash several items in a large plastic trash receptacle and then run eastbound on 16th Street toward Harvey Milk Memorial Library. Responding officers could not find the suspect, described as a white male, 5 feet 10 inches, 160 pounds, wearing a black, green, and white colored plaid shirt and blue jeans. Items recovered from the trash receptacle included a bottle jack, a wooden stick, and a bloody glove. Officers found a fair amount of blood on the shattered display window as well as on the pavement below it, apparently the suspect's. Samples of blood were collected as evidence.

#### Almost famous

432 Castro, 450 Castro, and 536 Castro, January 30, 5:50 p.m.: Po-

lice received several 911 calls reporting a man walking into businesses on Castro Street, threatening clerks with a knife. Responding officers met with the manager of Injeanous clothing store who reported that the suspect walked into the store and was recognized for allegedly previously shoplifting. When the manager asked him to leave, the suspect became angry, brandished a knife, and threatened, "I'm going to remember you. I'll be back." The suspect exited the store and walked southbound on Castro toward 18th Street and entered Rolo on Castro. There, too, the clerk recognized the suspect as an alleged shoplifter, and asked him to leave. "Oh, your buddy from up the street called and told you I was bad?" the suspect asked. "Well I've been stealing from you for years." The suspect exited the store and continued walking southbound on Castro, entering Citizen clothing where he was again recognized as an alleged shoplifter and asked to leave. The suspect became angry, pulled a knife from his jacket, and waved it at the clerk, stating, "What are you going to do about it?" The clerk reached for the phone as another employee came from the back room.

The suspect, described as African American, 39-45 years old, 5 feet 11 inches, 160 pounds, wearing a black beanie cap, black pea coat, and black pants, tucked the knife back into his jacket sleeve and walked out the door toward 19th Street. Responding officers were unable to locate him. ▼

# Convicted gay basher is in jail – finally

by Dennis Conkin

**A**fter seven years on the lam, convicted gay basher Jonathan Bell is in custody in the San Francisco County Jail following a January 27 appearance before Superior Court Judge Julie Tang.

Bell, 31, of Moraga, California, had been the subject of a no bail arrest warrant since 1996, when he failed to appear to serve a six-month jail term for an antigay attack on Ronald Bennett on Halloween Eve, 1995.

In the incident, Bell and three accomplices jumped out of a car and attacked Bennett as he was walking from the Lone Star Saloon to the SF Eagle, two popular South of Market gay bars on Harrison Street. The men punched and slugged Bennett, threatened his life, and taunted him with antigay epithets and verbal abuse in the round-robin attack.

One of the men, John Cody Lee, served a five-month jail sentence in the attack. Another defendant, Joseph Stellin, was charged but his case never went to trial. A warrant was issued for his arrest but he was not apprehended and the warrant has since been purged from the system, according to a statement from the San Francisco District Attorney's office. The fourth man was never charged, according to the district attorney's office.

Bell argued in 1996 that he was a "good candidate" for probation but Tang sentenced him to a one-

year jail sentence, suspended down to six months, and also ordered probation, restitution, counseling, an apology to the victim, and an apology to the lesbian and gay community to be published in the Bay Area Reporter.

Bell will appear before Tang again later this month on a motion for bail. At press time it remained unclear whether his violation of the terms of probation will result in his having to serve an entire year in county jail for the antigay attack on Bennett.

Bell appeared last week before Tang after he was located by Tony Saab, an investigator with the district attorney's office, who would have arrested him had he not agreed to turn himself in. While on the run, Bell fled to Utah where he was arrested on felony drug charges in 1998 and drug and fraud charges in 2000. ▼

## Our Man Friday

◀ page 9

thing, will use any weapon, will commit any outrage, no matter how many innocents must suffer." Indeed, that was President Bush speaking ... but, it was President George H. W. Bush, the father of the current president, making his State of the Union address 12 years ago last week, in 1991, as Operation Desert Storm was under way. Like, we've already waited 12 years, junior, what the hell is the rush now?

And how was your week? ▼

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# In office a short time, Israel's Uzi Even reflects on achievements

by David Ryan Alexander

After serving for three months as the first out gay man in the Israeli Parliament, or Knesset, Uzi Even spent this week in the Bay Area and Los Angeles giving lectures on the state of gay politics in Israel and discussing his accomplishments in securing rights for gays and lesbians over the last 10 years.

In addition to his achievement in entering the Knesset, Even, 62, was also the first openly gay foster parent in Israel, won spousal rights for his partner from the University of Tel Aviv, where Even works, and has successfully changed Israeli military policy so that gays and lesbians can now openly serve. He even jokes about a recent situation where his foster son's commanding officer arranged a date for his foster son with another soldier, "Yes, it's great progress," Even said laughing, "but I didn't like him."

Before being sworn in to the Knesset, current members of the Shas, known for their highly religious right-wing policies, stated that they would refuse to work with Even.

"When I was first sworn in, they all went out of their way to congratulate me. They all had a political line they had to adhere to, but once the cameras were off they were all very nice to me. Except the Shas Party — they wouldn't even go in the elevator with me."

Even also received congratulations from many members of the gay community. "People told me that they had come out to their families, they felt so empowered by what I had done," he said.

With the recent election, however, Even's political party, Meretz, lost several seats in the Knesset, so Even will not be serving for this term. Regardless of how short his service was, Even said that "my election to the post was significant by itself. Whoever comes after me will find it much easier."

In the recent election, no open-



Rick Gerhardt

Professor Uzi Even

forced to negotiate with Even for the legislation's passage. Even had a perfect attendance record.

In the immediate future, Even plans to return to his teaching position at the University of Tel Aviv where he is a professor of chemistry, and when the next election comes, he will decide whether to run again. In the long term, he plans to prepare the next generation in the gay rights movement.

Many people have taken particular note of Even, because in the past 10 years in Israel, he has in many ways been able to accomplish more than what the gay rights movement in the United States has been struggling to achieve for 30 years.

Even explained that there were several reasons for this. In Israel the gay rights movement never adopted the "in your face" tactics as in the United States. He said that they tried to work more with the system to achieve change, not against the system.

"Most of the time I spent in politics I used the media to change the policies of Israel. That was extremely successful," he said.

He also pointed out the obvious difference in size between the two countries. "Israel is so small that everyone knows someone who is gay. It puts an actual face [on gays and lesbians] that you don't always get in the United States."

As for his ability to change military policy to allow gays and lesbians to serve openly, Even pointed out a major difference between the Israeli and American military: in Israel, military service is compulsory, whereas in the United States it is a volunteer-based professional system. When asked if he saw a possible change in the American policy, he said, "not for a long time."

On Friday, February 7, Even will attend Sabbath and briefly speak at Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 290 Dolores Street, in San Francisco. The service begins at 7:30 p.m.

# Questions raised about gay male domestic violence study

by Zak Szymanski

For almost a decade, member organizations of the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs have been collecting data and reporting on the widespread domestic abuse problem that occurs within LGBT relationships. So when Georgetown University released a gay male domestic violence study, published in the December issue of the *American Journal of Public Health*, NCAVP members were thrilled — initially.

"We thought, 'Hey it's so great that there's this new study with more scientific information, let's read it,'" said Rachel Baum, MSW,

NCAVP's national coordinator of domestic violence programs. "And that was the point at which I started to be incredibly disappointed, and my excitement turned to frustration. Once again we had a study that did not reflect the true diversity of our community."

The widely publicized Georgetown study concluded that one in five urban gay men is battered by his partner, and that gay men are just as likely as straight women to be the victims of domestic violence. While NCAVP does not dispute the prevalence of same-sex domestic violence, it does take issue with the survey's methods.

Georgetown interviewed 2,881 gay men in Los Angeles, San Francisco, New York, and Chicago to

reach its conclusion. But the survey sample was virtually 80 percent white from these racially diverse areas, and the study authors never answered NCAVP's concerns about their methodology — which included telephone interviews from participants' homes, where safety could have been an issue. Such unsound science, said NCAVP, can actually do more harm than good.

"What we need are strong surveys that make arguments for funding. How are we supposed to do that for Latino communities, for instance, when they are not in this study? Are we to believe they have lower incidence just because they're not mentioned in the

page 19 ▶

## COMMUNITY NEWS

# DPH spares prevention but cuts services in budget proposal

by Matthew S. Bajko

**B**y cutting nearly \$17.5 million from its proposed budget for fiscal year 2003-2004, the San Francisco Department of Public Health is slashing funding for substance abuse services, support services to people with HIV and AIDS, and transitional housing for queer youth.

"This is the worst year for the health department in the last eight years," said Health Director Dr. Mitch Katz during a press conference Friday, January 31. "These cuts are extremely painful and are occurring in areas already with unmet needs."

At the same time, the department is maintaining its current level of funding for prevention and has allocated an additional \$150,000 in next year's budget to syphilis control. The city saw a 169 percent increase in the number of early syphilis cases reported in 2002 from the previous year. Preliminary figures indicate that 497 cases of early syphilis have been reported compared to 185 cases of early syphilis reported in 2001.

The budgeted money will help the health department deal with the outbreak of syphilis cases the city faces, particularly among HIV-positive gay men. The funds will be matched by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to pay for syphilis surveillance and prevention efforts.

The city's Health Commission



Health Director Dr. Mitch Katz

now must approve the department's budget and will be holding public hearings this month to discuss Katz's proposed cuts. After that, the mayor's office must approve the budget before sending it to the Board of Supervisors. The city must finalize its budget by June 1.

"Unfortunately, Katz and the Department of Public Health had to make a series of 'Sophie's choices.' In every case, people were going to be harmed," Fred Dillon, the San Francisco AIDS Foundation's public policy director, said of the proposed cuts.

Two of the hardest hit agencies under the budget proposal are the AIDS Health Project and Shanti, with both agencies likely to see nearly \$400,000 cut for emotional

and practical support to people living with HIV or AIDS. Nearly 900 clients would be impacted at AHP, and an additional 600 clients at Shanti would be without services.

Shanti would have to lay off six employees who help train and coordinate volunteers who are then matched with clients. The volunteers assist clients in getting to and from medical appointments, ensure clients take their medications, and assist with housework and grocery shopping.

"If indeed those unfortunate cuts take place, 600 people in San Francisco would no longer receive some of the most cost effective services available," said Hywel Sims, Shanti's executive director.

The health department proposed cutting these services in last year's budget, but the agencies successfully lobbied to maintain their funding. Sims said he is hopeful the funding will be once again spared.

"We will be talking to our partners at the AIDS Health Project and San Francisco AIDS Foundation to decide how best to encourage the city to change its mind," said Sims. "We will try to demonstrate that servicing 600 people on page 16 ▶

## Bay Area agencies mark National Black AIDS Awareness Day

by Matthew S. Bajko

**C**ommunities across the country will take part Friday, February 7 in the third annual National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, an effort to encourage African Americans to get educated, involved, and tested to fight the disease.

Local HIV/AIDS groups across the country will provide free HIV testing, facilitate town meetings, and organize youth rallies in their respective communities to tackle the ongoing AIDS epidemic in the black community.

"Seventy-two African Americans are infected with HIV every day," said Ron Person, director for the Alameda County Department of Public Health Office of AIDS. "African Americans make up approximately 13 percent of the population of the United States, yet 38 percent of total AIDS cases reported in this country are among members of the black community."

In Alameda County, 52 percent of people diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in 1998 were African American, compared to 18 percent in 1985. In 2000, Oakland,

with a high density of black residents, accounted for 58 percent of the county's HIV/AIDS cases.

Alameda County's experience in tracking AIDS cases is reflected nationally as more African Americans are reported to have HIV/AIDS than any other racial or ethnic group. In San Francisco, the black community is also disproportionately impacted, with African Americans accounting for 10 percent of the city's population but representing 14 percent of living AIDS cases. According to the city's health department, more than 1,300 African American residents are living with AIDS.

More and more it is African American women who are contracting HIV and many black males do not bother to get tested for the virus, said Andre Robertson, director of prevention with the Black Coalition on AIDS in San Francisco. Robertson said a new rapid HIV test will help those health officials working in the black community get more individuals tested.

"I think the rapid test would do wonders because the people who are the most at risk are people who don't often come in to

page 19 ▶



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## Staph infections

◀ page 1

summer. He then heard from a colleague in Los Angeles who reported seeing 40 cases in September.

Beginning in December, Owen reported seeing two to three cases per week. He is currently treating 15 patients for the drug resistant staph.

"My estimate is it's ranging in several hundred cases, probably in the 200 to 300 range. That is purely an extrapolation based on the number of gay men in clinical care throughout the city," Owen said. "All the gay and lesbian doctors I know have seen cases of it, so it's out there."

Dr. Mitch Katz, the city's health director, said he has treated two patients for the drug-resistant staph. But he cautioned that he doesn't "want people to think this

is equivalent to a new HIV/AIDS epidemic."

The health department's infectious disease unit launched a survey this week to determine how big of a problem the staph infections are within the gay community and to try to determine exactly how the men are transmitting the infections.

"We have only had a few reports. We really need to get a good idea of what the actual numbers are before we call this an epidemic. It certainly is worrisome and suggestive," said Dr. Edwin Charlebois, an infectious disease epidemiologist with the health department who has studied methicillin resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) since 1999.

### Early speculation

Initial speculation of how the staph is being spread has turned to skin-to-skin contact during sex, though it could be contracted at

health clubs, steam rooms, dance clubs, and any warm, enclosed environment. Doctors warn the resistant staph has the potential to spread quickly because of the many gay men who frequent circuit parties, bathhouses, and sex clubs and have sex with multiple partners.

Katz said it appears the staph is mainly occurring among men who "party and play" – the practice of taking drugs, partying at all-night dance clubs, and engaging in unsafe sex.

"Would I think someone into the party scene, who took drugs and is doing real close dancing, is at higher risk? Yes, I would think so," said Katz. "It is more common in people partaking in the party and play activities on weekends that involve sweaty dancing, sex, and the use of drugs that make the skin drier and hotter."

Owen said one of his patients has contracted the staph infection three times in the last six months, with one instance treatable with common antibiotics while the other two cases being the drug-resistant staph.

"He is not having a relapse. He is acquiring new infections because of his sexual contacts or the places he is going," said Owen.

### Skepticism

Some in the gay community remain skeptical that the staph infections are being spread solely through sexual contact. They say it is too early to isolate the staph transmission to one particular behavior or environment.

"I don't necessarily know those particular activities that Mr. Katz is saying cause the spread of this. It is not just sex and dirty places that transmit this," said Charlebois, an assistant professor of medicine in the division of infectious diseases at the University of California at San Francisco.

San Francisco resident Steve Keller sent a letter this week to several newspaper editors and reporters complaining their reports sensationalized the story. He criticized the news accounts for failing to report that according to the Food and Drug Administration staph can be spread via food. According to the FDA, staph can also become air borne via dust, sewage, water, or food equipment.

"Nowhere in my research this morning did I find, as erroneously reported in Los Angeles and San Francisco, the term 'bathhouse' or 'multiple partners' used as a mode for transportation from one person to another," wrote Keller. "Yes, these are places of close contact between individuals, but it is more likely that gay men are contacting this bacterium via other modes of transportation where close contact is readily available, i.e., bars, crowded streets, city buses, restaurants, hospitals, etc."

Staph usually lives on the skin's surface and resides harmlessly in the nose, armpits, and groin. Staph is present in 50 percent or more of healthy individuals though this incidence is even higher for those who associate with or who come in contact with sick individuals and hospital environments.

"Staph is one of the most common bacteria which causes skin infections. What we are concerned about here are staph infections caused by this MRSA. I haven't heard of hundreds of cases of MRSA in gay men without risk factors, such as men who aren't injection drug users or recently been in the hospital," said Charlebois.

It is important for men who have contracted the staph infection to seek treatment early. The longer one waits to see a doctor, the more severe the staph infection.

tion can become. If it enters the blood stream, it can be fatal.

Jay Newberry, 38, thought he had a spider bite that became infected until he began hearing about the staph outbreak in Los Angeles. Newberry, who works at the UCSF AIDS Policy Research Center, is now on his fourth antibiotic to try to treat his infection.

"It has been emotional. There are very few medical answers to this," he said. "I was scared when they said there were only these two antibiotics for this and then you have to go on IV."

His latest medication seems to be working, though it comes with some unpleasant side effects.

"It's really hard on my stomach right now. I have no appetite and make frequent trips to the bathroom," he said.

Despite the fact a boyfriend of his had developed the staph infection in November, Newberry said he doesn't think he contracted it from him.

"I possibly could have gotten it from him. I am pretty sure mine was casual contact on the gym or something," said Newberry, who said he is not involved in the party and play scene. "This could be transferred as simply as someone having this on their hand and them touching you."

As health officials try to determine how the staph is being spread, they caution gay men should practice good personal hygiene, use clean towels at the gym, and to protect their skin from cuts or scratches.

"We can safely go to our gyms and dance clubs, just try not to come into contact with an open wound," said Charlebois.

Health officials will hold a public forum regarding the staph infections at 7 p.m. Tuesday, February 18 at the LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market Street. ▼

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## PACHA

◀ page 1

the number of people who are tested for HIV," Bush said. "How can you treat if you don't test? How can you help if you don't know?" He announced a waiver of regulations in order to allow the recently approved "rapid" HIV test to immediately go into use.

"There are very strong forces in the medical community, in the clinical community, and in the pathology community that did not want that to happen," said PACHA co-chair Tom Coburn.

"The president and [HHS Secretary Tommy Thompson] pulled out all the stops" in speeding the lifting of this waiver, Allen told PACHA later that day. The company had formally submitted a waiver application only two days previously.

"I think this was a huge, huge day for HIV/AIDS in America," said David Greer. He is a former spokesman for Log Cabin Republicans and a person living with AIDS recently appointed to PACHA. "It makes me feel proud that I worked hard for this man's election," Greer said. "It is going to be a part of his legacy."

### PACHA meets

PACHA met January 30-31, around the meeting with the president. New members were sworn in and briefings held.

O'Neill told them, "All of the recommendations that come back are: spend more money. We get that part. The hard part is how to spend it intelligently. Your job is to help us think carefully and to provide leadership in communities."

Allen was careful always to in-

clude condoms in the range of prevention activities. He spoke again and again of the Uganda experience where an ABC program – abstinence, being monogamous, condoms – has led to a decline in new HIV cases. He said, "They focused on A and B and in very risky populations they focused on C, in large part because, particularly in rural areas, condoms weren't available."

One bit of heated disagreement came to the floor from the Prevention Committee, which is stacked with social conservatives. It argued that the estimated 40,000-plus new infections a year in the U.S. is evidence that current prevention approaches are not working well. None would disagree with the assessment, but there was great unease over the proposed solution.

The language of the resolution they offered was deceptively simple. It called for "adopting a traditional public health model" in the fight against AIDS. But the core of what they sought was justification for contact tracing and partner notification that many on the right have held as talismans to better controlling new infections.

For two decades, the consensus within the public health community has been that the stigma associated with the principle vectors of HIV infection, homosexual activity and injection drug use, requires the active cooperation of those communities for effective prevention. Intrusive measures such as contact tracing often cause individuals to see public health officials as the enemy and to be less forthcoming in sharing information.

Don Snead, a new member of

PACHA from Dallas, was the first to ask exactly what was it that the language of the resolution meant.

The Reverend Edwin Sanders II called the resolution "premature." He suggested, "What we are dealing with is a disease that does not lend itself to traditional public health measures."

Coburn argued, "If we don't institute a public health model of contact tracing, testing, partner notification in this country, we will never lessen this epidemic." He pushed for what was essentially a vote now on the principle of the resolution, with later clarification of what they meant.

"Then we don't know what we're voting for," said David Reznik, a newly appointed member who is a dentist from Atlanta.

Sanders pointed to application of traditional public health measures to syphilis, "Where we have seen a systematic fluctuation of the disease has not translated into a fix. We've had the cure, we've had the answers for a long time. The fact is it has not been effective in sustaining a situation where the disease does not exist."

"That is just absolutely inaccurate in terms of syphilis," said Coburn. "The only syphilis outbreaks that we are seeing today are ones that we have identified."

"I'm the co-chair of the National Syphilis Elimination Committee," replied Sanders, "I know that the reason why we ended up doing this is because it was not clear that it worked effectively in relationship to an infectious disease."

Frustrated that they could not quickly slip the resolution through, Coburn agreed to table it until a future meeting when language had been worked out. ▼

## COMMUNITY NEWS

# Jurors: We were duped

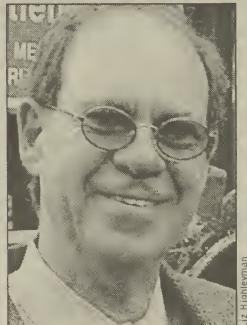
by Liz Highleyman

Several members of a federal jury that last week convicted Ed Rosenthal on three felony counts of marijuana conviction spoke out Tuesday, February 4 and said they were not allowed to hear all of the evidence in the case.

A federal jury on January 31 found Ed Rosenthal guilty on three counts of marijuana cultivation. The well-known author and cannabis expert faces a mandatory minimum sentence of five years in prison. Yet in an unusual move, a majority of jurors in the case said they made a mistake and have called for a retrial.

Rosenthal was arrested in February 2002 as part of a Drug Enforcement Agency crackdown that included a raid on San Francisco's Sixth Street Harm Reduction Center. He admitted to growing cannabis starter plants, or clones, in an Oakland warehouse under the provisions of California's 1996 Compassionate Use Act, or Proposition 215. Rosenthal, who was deputized in 1998 as officer of the city of Oakland, provided the plants to local medical cannabis dispensaries. Oakland's medical marijuana law was written to give federal immunity to those carrying out the ordinance's provisions.

Federal District Court Judge Charles Breyer did not allow Rosenthal to use the California law as a defense against the federal indictment. Lacking this defense, Rosenthal declined to testify on his own behalf. The U.S. Supreme Court affirmed in May 2001 that federal law does not per-



Ed Rosenthal

mit the cultivation or distribution of cannabis for any purpose.

Prospective jurors in the case were rigorously questioned and only those who did not express support for medical marijuana were selected. The jurors were not informed that Rosenthal acted in accordance with state law and the Oakland ordinance, and Breyer took pains to prevent mention of the medical aspects of the case during the trial – although he denied a prosecution request to impose a gag order on Rosenthal and his supporters. Before their deliberations, the judge instructed the jurors, "You cannot substitute your sense of justice for your duty to follow the law. The issue is not what's just, but what's the law."

Rosenthal's case has drawn national media attention and support from medical cannabis advocates.

The actions of the trial jury may set a precedent. On Tuesday four jurors and an alternate spoke against the verdict at a spirited rally

and press conference outside Rosenthal's custody hearing at the federal courthouse. At least seven jurors have thrown their support behind a statement calling for a new trial for Rosenthal. San Francisco District Attorney Terence Hallinan said that as far as he knew, never before had a majority of jurors said they were mistaken in rendering a guilty verdict.

Jury foreman Charles Sackett, a Sebastopol landscaper, stated that the jurors felt they had to follow Breyer's instructions, but that the "court played unfairly" and allowed them to hear only part of the evidence. Describing himself as private and conservative, Sackett said he was uncomfortable with the publicity but felt he had to speak out.

"For the first time in my life I'm questioning how the letter of the law can subvert the spirit of the law," he said.

"This is the most horrible mistake I've ever made in my entire life," lamented juror Marney Craig, a Novato property manager. "Ed Rosenthal is not a criminal and should never have been convicted."

Rosenthal, flanked by his wife and daughter, said he bore no ill will toward the jury, which he said had also been victimized by the federal government. Addressing U.S. Attorney George Bevan, the federal prosecutor on the case, Rosenthal stated, "You lost. Whether or not I go to jail, these laws are doomed."

Following Tuesday's custody hearing Rosenthal remains free on \$500,000 bail. Sentencing is expected in June. His lawyers are preparing a motion for a new trial. ▼

## Araujo killing

◀ page 1

girl?" Campbell asked.

"Possibly," Mendez answered.

Jose Merel's 20-year-old brother, Emmanuel Merel, who lived in the house, later confirmed parts of what happened that night. He said he was asleep when he was awakened by shouts of "Are you a man or a woman?", his brother Jose saying "We need to know," and a reply from Araujo, whom he knew only as "Lida," answering "Isn't it obvious?"

In her opening statement, Campbell told Judge Kenneth Mark Burr that the four defendants, Cazares, 22, Michael Magidson, 22, Jose Merel, 23, and Jaron Nabor, 19, acted in concert to commit what she called a "brutal cold-blooded murder."

All four men are charged with murder and a hate crime enhancement. All four have pleaded not guilty to the charges.

Campbell said that one or more of the defendants had a sexual relationship with Araujo – who was born Edward but identified and lived as a woman – over the month and a half preceding the killing, but thought that Araujo was female.

Campbell said that on that night, the four decided to find out Araujo's gender and when they discovered she was biologically male, they beat her, strangled her to death, and drove to a remote campground near Silver Lake in the Sierra where they hastily buried the body in a rocky grave.

As Araujo's mother, Sylvia Guerrero, fled the courtroom in tears, Newark Police Detective David Parks took the stand to describe how one of the defendants – Nabor – led police to the grave

and officers unearthed the decomposing body.

Parks related that at about 3 a.m. on October 16, after a two and a half hour search and many false stops, a caravan of four police cars bearing Nabor, Parks, and five other officers finally halted near a campground on Silver Fork Road about 30 minutes from Placerville.

Parks said that as police dug, they soon found four or five rocks. They lifted them out, and, Parks said, "ended up locating a human hand underneath a rock."

As they sifted through the dirt, using brooms and their bare hands, the police unearthed Araujo's body, wrapped in a white bed comforter, the hands and ankles bound with white rope and the legs twisted back behind the torso.

"There was a large rock on top of the face with a brown stain, and a brown stained carpet under the body," Parks testified.

They found a purse, with its strap wrapped around Araujo's neck. In the purse, Parks related, were "papers, business cards, and one particular item with Eddie Araujo's name on it."

A pathologist who was present at Araujo's autopsy, Dr. Paul William Herrmann, testified that the cause of death was asphyxia due to strangulation and blunt trauma to the head.

Herrmann said they found a gag in Araujo's mouth, "a strip of bloody cloth," and abrasions and hemorrhages on her neck from the rope that had been used to strangle her.

"This rope was very tight around the neck before death," Herrmann said. "There must have been pressure applied for a minute or so – maybe even longer than that."

According to Herrmann, Araujo

had also probably been beaten before she was strangled. The coroner found two cuts on her head, signs of a beating severe enough that it may have contributed to her death.

Herrmann also said that they found residues of marijuana, alcohol and methamphetamine in Araujo's blood, confirming her mother's report to police that Araujo had smoked speed on the afternoon of the murder.

Defense attorneys may use the drugs later to try and discredit Araujo, but their courtroom tactics became clear early on. Even as prosecutor Campbell delivered her opening statement to the judge, defense attorney Tony Serra peppered her with objections and visibly knocked Campbell off balance.

Serra, who is representing Cazares in the case, has a long and successful career defending medical pot advocates, alleged murderers, Hells Angels, Black Panthers, and even a Symbionese Liberation Army leader.

Serra spent much of the preliminary hearing collecting testimony to later impugn the credibility of the prosecution's case: the inconsistent testimony of reluctant witnesses and varying accounts of the crime. He visibly relished the moment when Parks described Araujo's body as clad in a "multi-colored ankle-length long skirt," when other witnesses had said that she had been buried in a short denim skirt she wore to the party.

He questioned Mendez, who contradicted her earlier statements to police from the stand, asking, "So, your memory is like fine wine, it gets better with age?"

Because of a break due to the defense attorneys' scheduling conflicts, the preliminary hearing will continue on February 18. ▼

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# Transgender people and immigration

by Marta Donayre  
and Chris Daley

The following is an occasional column compiled by the Transgender Law Center that answers basic legal questions of interest to San Francisco's transgender, intersex, gender-variant, and genderqueer communities.

PPIA is shorthand for the Permanent Partners Immigration Act, a federal bill that is being considered in Washington, D.C. PPIA would amend U.S. immigration law to allow a U.S. citizen or permanent resident who is unable to marry their partner to sponsor their partner for immigration. Currently, this right is only available to someone who is legally married.

That means that, as the law now stands, many couples are

being torn apart when one partner's visa expires. Some people choose to overstay their visa to remain with their partner even though doing so puts them at great personal risk and affects their ability to work legally. In order to overcome these burdens, activists and legislators introduced PPIA in the U.S. House of Representatives in 2000.

Since its introduction, PPIA has garnered increasing support from lawmakers. However, it has yet to succeed in becoming law. In fact, with a Republican House and Senate currently in Washington, most experts believe that PPIA has a slim chance of becoming law in the next two years. Nonetheless, PPIA, when enacted, will offer a number of benefits to transgender communities.

The first benefit is the contribution that immigrants make to the U.S. economy and culture.

Transgender communities, like the rest of the United States, will benefit from the skills and enthusiasm that immigrants admitted to the U.S. under PPIA will bring with them. PPIA will also help to bridge the inequalities that exist between heterosexual and same-sex relationships, therefore moving the U.S. toward becoming a more equitable society.

PPIA's second, and more direct, benefit will be the ability of many transgender people to bring their partners to — or to join their partners in — the United States. The couples that most clearly fit into this category are those same-sex couples where at least one partner is transgender. Less obviously, PPIA will also grant or re-enforce immigration rights for heterosexual couples where one partner is transgender.

Clearly, without PPIA, couples in a valid marriage have immigration rights that non-married people don't have. For immigration purposes, the key word there is "valid." Until the last decade, or so, our "legal sex" was assumed to be the one we were assigned at birth. Because of that faulty assumption, the validity of a marriage where one partner is transgender is disproportionately open to challenge.

Because marriage is a state issue in the U.S., the validity of marriages involving one transgender partner varies from state to state. In the few states where courts have decided the validity of a marriage entered into after one partner has transitioned, the results have been split. While California and New Jersey both have cases upholding the validity of marriages in those states, the Kansas Supreme Court recently invalidated such a marriage. And to make national matters even more unclear, the overwhelming majority of state courts and all state legislatures have so far been silent on the issue.

For many married or engaged couples, where one partner transitioned before the marriage, an interview with the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service can be harrowing. The INS typically investigates the validity of all marriages that are being used to sponsor one of the partners for immigration. However, the INS does not currently have a formal policy for determining the validity of a marriage when one of the partners is transgender. Therefore, the INS officer conducting the hearing can use their discretion to ask invasive, and oftentimes, inappropriate questions about the anatomy of the transgender partner.

ner and the couple's sex life. Obviously, such questioning can be incredibly stressful for the parties involved.

In determining if the marriage is a valid one for the purposes of sponsorship, INS officers have often looked to the law in the state where the marriage was, or will be, performed. If the marriage

happened in a state like Kansas, the INS likely would not allow a U.S. citizen or permanent resident to sponsor their spouse, if that person or their partner is transgender.

The PPIA directly addresses this problem.

As drafted, the PPIA defines a permanent partner as, among other things, someone who is "unable to contract with [their partner] a marriage cognizable under the INA" (Sec 2, [2]). Unlike some domestic partnership statutes, the language in this bill does not limit permanent partnership to "opposite sex" couples.

Therefore, if PPIA becomes law, couples in a heterosexual relationship where one spouse is transgender will have two chances to secure immigration rights. The couple can apply for those immigration rights associated with their marriage. If their marriage is found to be invalid by the INS, the couple could then apply for immigration rights under PPIA. In fact, the finding of an invalid marriage would seem to automatically meet the above prong of the permanent partner definition. While PPIA will not also grant these partners all of the other benefits of marriage, it will at least prevent the couple from being torn apart simply because they can't get married.

U.S. immigration law is largely based on the principle of family unification. PPIA extends that principle to LGBT families. Up

until now, PPIA has been seen as mainly a benefit to same-sex couples. However, because the bill was drafted using inclusive language, transgender people in heterosexual marriages in some states would greatly advantage from PPIA.

The effort to get PPIA passed continues. To find out more information about the bill, see the Lesbian and Gay Immigration Rights Task Force Web site ([www.lgirrf.org](http://www.lgirrf.org)). The site lists a number of steps you can take to help build momentum for passage of the bill. The National Center for Lesbian Rights sponsors a local LGIRRF affiliate. The group meets the first Wednesday of every month to exchange stories, support, and valuable immigration information, as well as plan for events related to this topic. For more information about LGIRRF meetings and events, please contact NCLR at (415) 392-6257, ext. 315.

The information provided in this column is not intended as a substitute for legal advice. If you have a legal question about your specific circumstances, please contact an attorney or the appropriate government agency. ▼

**Marta Donayre** is the public education director at the National Center for Lesbian Rights; **Chris Daley** is co-director of the Transgender Law Center.

Transgender Law Center staff members Dylan Vade and Chris Daley answer transgender legal questions via phone (415-865-5619) and e-mail ([daley@nclrighs.org](mailto:daley@nclrighs.org)) and at free twice a month legal clinics. The center is a fiscally sponsored project of the National Center for Lesbian Rights and receives additional support from the Echoing Green Foundation, Female-to-Male International, and the Yale Public Interest Initiative.

## DPH cuts

◀ page 13

\$400,000 a year makes a lot of financial sense."

Already facing its own budgetary problems and staff layoffs, SFAF will lose \$139,172 for its AIDS hotline, which answers 24,000 calls per year from city residents.

"Given the bleak economic situation we all face, the foundation is not able to pick up these calls with private funding. They will flood other parts of the system and be a burden, and probably will not get as good information as they get now," said Dillon.

Other agencies that face defunding include New Leaf, which stands to lose \$123,000 for substance abuse programming the health department says is underutilized, and Walden House, which could lose nearly \$614,000 for its continuing care and case management services as well as funding for a five-bed facility for intensive treatment the health department deems is too costly. The loss of funding to both agencies would impact roughly 380 clients.

Due to the impending relocation of the Ark House, which must move out of its current location at 2500 Market Street by April, the health department has cut the program's funding nearly in half by \$335,393 which will mean a reduction from 15 beds to nine

beds. By the end of March, the transitional housing program for LGBTQ youth will relocate to a Victorian House on Fell Street near the Panhandle as Ark of Refuge, the agency that runs the program, looks for a permanent location.

"Mitch Katz has proposed reducing the budget from its current level to \$324,000, which is the amount we need to run the program at the Fell Street location," explained Eric Politzer, director of youth programs and special projects for Ark of Refuge. "That was our request to him; luckily he granted our request."

As for the health department's budget, more cuts could be in store as the mayor's office is requiring the department to present a contingency plan with an additional \$28 million in cuts. A final plan is not due until March 15.

"It is too painful and too difficult at this point to come up with those cuts in the work that we do," said Katz.

Already, the health department has said it would reduce \$1 million in HIV/AIDS prevention funding, save another \$2.2 million by closing mental health day treatment programs, and most likely would close one or more of its eight community health centers, as well as possibly selling off the land, if it had to implement the contingency plan.

Though Katz said, "That would be very hard to stomach." ▼

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## COMMUNITY NEWS

# RACH co-founder Jeanette Gurevitch dies

by Cynthia Laird

Jeanette Gurevitch, a Bay Area psychotherapist and co-founder of the Rainbow Adult Community Housing organization in San Francisco, died suddenly on January 21 of cardiac arrest. She was 54.

Ms. Gurevitch co-founded RACH with her longtime partner, Marcy Adelman, in 1998.

"Nobody worked harder or more intelligently than Jeanette did on our shared dream of a senior village with housing and support services that proudly welcomes the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community," said a statement from RACH staff and board members. "Her partner, Marcy, the entire board of directors, and all of our RACH family members are fiercely determined to honor Jeanette's life by ensuring the realization of that dream in San Francisco. We will do whatever it takes to succeed as she would have wished."

Adelman, who had been Ms. Gurevitch's partner since 1990 and who serves as board president of RACH, told the *Bay Area Reporter* that the idea for LGBT senior housing was born of an unmet need.

"In about 1998 we had many friends of all income levels who were leaving the Bay Area," Adelman said. "And we also experi-

enced how exhausting circles of care can be, they exhaust the resources of friends. And we just realized that it was time we had senior housing with services."

"Jeanette was kind of the unseen force at RACH," said board member Patrick Hoetel, a former assistant editor at the *B.A.R.* "She was sort of the engine that drove Rainbow. She had the vision and the cause and she put in so many hours. Just her sheer hard work

next page ▶



Jeanette Gurevitch

## Dunlap memorial Feb. 15

Family and friends of the late Mary Dunlap have announced that a celebration her work and life will be held Saturday, February 15 in San Francisco.

Ms. Dunlap, a longtime civil rights lawyer and head of the civilian Office of Citizen Complaints, died January 17 after a lengthy battle with cancer. She was 54.

During her career, Ms. Dunlap was the attorney who argued before the U.S. Supreme Court against the U.S. Olympic Committee during the fight over the use of the term "Gay Olympics." The high court ruled against Dunlap's clients, and the event was forced to be called Gay Games.

As director of the OCC, Ms. Dunlap supervised an office whose staff members investigate citizen complaints against San Francisco police officers.

The February 15 memorial takes place at 2 p.m. in Herbst Theatre, in the War Memorial and Performing Arts Center, at 401 Van Ness Avenue. A reception will follow in the Green Room on the second floor. For information on donations in lieu of flowers, please visit [www.marydunlapspancreas.org](http://www.marydunlapspancreas.org), a Web site Ms. Dunlap and her partner, Maureen Mason, started after Ms. Dunlap became ill. ▶

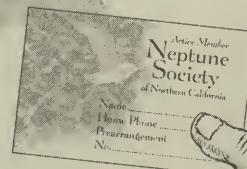
— Cynthia Laird

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# Scrumbelievable

by Jim Provenzano

While the sport of rugby appears to any outsider to be one of the most homosocial – if not homoerotic – of macho athletics, the movement toward gay-inclusive teams is only five years old.

Gay rugby's roots go back to merry old England, when in 1998 the Kings Cross Steelers made headlines in this paper and elsewhere for their first efforts in reaching a victory. The primarily recreational-level team was regularly squashed by opponents, but stuck it out as other teams formed around the world. They now boast three teams.

In a 1998 *Sports Illustrated* article, Nicolas Revel was quoted as saying, "I think the main reason we are accepted is that we are not – how do you say it? – very camp." Revel, a speedy back from France, was one of the Steelers' two best players in its early years. Their club colors are blue and green. "I wouldn't have played if they were pink," said Ian (Iggy) Samuel-Smith.

Pink colors did show up on the T-shirts of sideline cheerleaders drafted by Sydney locals from among the fans. My hot pink T-shirt is among the more unique of Games souvenirs.

Last June's Mark Bingham

Cup, held at Golden Gate Park's Polo Fields, and sponsored by the San Francisco Fog, made headlines and got major corporate sponsorship for the newer teams, and now one of the largest, in the U.S.

And although the San Francisco Fog did not compete as a team at Gay Games VI last November due to the different style, as well as timing and expenses, about eight Bay Areans competed on various pickup teams throughout the week.

## Little orphans handy

Russ Myer from Oakland and Mike Farris from Seattle were both on the World Orphans team. They talked before their third day of playing on the wide open fields in Centennial Park.

With only one clinic the Sunday of Games week, the players got a quick primer in touch rules, which are different from rugby union rules.

"A lot of it, we already know, with ball handling and passing," said Farris. "It's just the different variations on what you do, where you touch. It follows the format of the rugby league, which is like tackle, but in rugby union, when you're tackled, the ball is still in play. In league, you place the ball, and have other opportunities to run with the ball before the exchange is over. In rugby union, it's whoever can get the ball, so it's more aggressive."

Were they intimidated to play Australians more familiar with all aspects of the sport?

"Oh, they're a bunch of cute guys, and they're a lot of fun!"

For Myer, "The big difference is the mechanics are similar, but the strategies are different. Our days here have been kind of picking up the strategies as we go. Our goal is to improve each game, and I think we've been doing that. We're not really worried about winning."

## Marked men

Trying to win against a large and experienced opponent like Kolose Sifuiva of Auckland proved tough. The local Poofahs and Blacks squads almost all medaled.

Sifuiva has played league for South Auckland since he was a teen. He then changed to union five years ago when a gay rugby team was formed. "We were the only gay team in the social grade [rec. league]. We play about 15

games a year, per season."

His first Gay Games proved enjoyable for Sifuiva, who showed off his tattoos with fellow teammates. He and his teammates hope to visit Montreal in 2006. "If they have touch rugby, but I can also play volleyball, softball, just about any sport, really," he said.

As to hopes of adding the more active style of rugby to the events, Sifuiva hedged his bets. "You'd need a squad of 30 or so, because of injuries and stuff. We've got quite a few guys injured here already, but it's not too bad."

## Dressed to kill

James Hudson of New Zealand played with the Touch Blacks, which he said is made up primarily of the union rugby team in Auckland. "We all play touch together in the summer, so we decided to take a team down to Sydney," Hudson said.

He agreed that the sport afforded a home field advantage, particularly among the varying squads of self-named Poofahs.

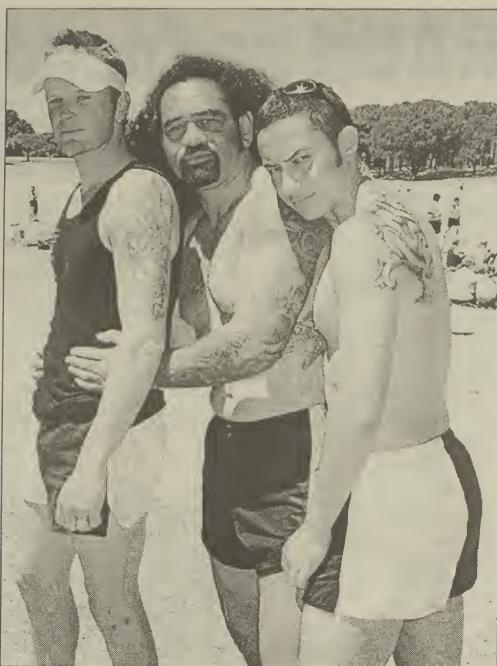
Despite their touch rugby advantage, the Aussies and Kiwis do hope to see rugby [tackle] union at a future Gay Games.

"There would definitely be more teams comin' on, especially from the U.K. as well," said Robert Brown, an Auckland and Sydney athlete originally from Scotland.

Most Games teams, including the Auckland and New Zealand squads, were almost entirely gay men.

What brought the Scot to Oz? "I was gonna be cheeky and say 'A plane,'" but no, it was a work visa," said Brown, who also wrestles, but with few wrestling coaches or teams in New Zealand, gay or straight, he chose rugby for his Games sport.

He used to train with clubs in Glasgow, London, and Sydney, and hopes to wrestle more in the future. "But for now, I just did rugby. I wanted to do something, even standin' around doin' Tiddlywinks!"



Kiwi the people: Rugger Kolose Sifuiva, center, and tattooed pals.

Jim Provenzano

He plans to wrestle in Montreal for Gay Games VI, "with some o' me old mates."

While a bit of a globe traveler, Brown plans to encourage more Scottish pals to join up and grow more sports teams, adding to the celebratory multinational flair that make the Games so much fun.

"We're joinin' Team Scotland," he said, "so when we march in at op'nin' ceremonies at the next Games, we'll have kilts and bagpipes, the whole deal, along with a lesbian drumming corps from Glasgow."

## Home base

Locally, rugby action continues through the season. The Fog played in San Francisco last week, and met the Modesto-area Stanislaus Harlots last month. The Harlots made a strong showing, defeating the Fog 67-3.



Poofah magic pass screen: Aussie ruggers take the field.

The Fog's next match is Saturday, February 8, 1 p.m., versus McGeorge Law School in Sacramento.

For more about the Kings Cross Steelers, visit [www.kxsrfc.com](http://www.kxsrfc.com). For more about the SF Fog, visit [www.sffog.org](http://www.sffog.org).

## Seismic

The S.F. Earthquakes co-ed ice hockey team is having tryouts and practice. All levels of experience and interest are invited to participate. Meet the team in Oakland at the Oakland Ice Center, at 3:15 p.m. on February 8 and February 22. For info, e-mail Karen McAfee at [ilese31@hotmail.com](mailto:ilese31@hotmail.com) or visit [www.sfqquakes.com](http://www.sfqquakes.com).

## Rock the vote

SF Pride 2003 has accepted Team San Francisco's nomination for organization grand marshal. The SF Pride board now has to make the difficult decision of cutting down the list of all the nominees to only five for the upcoming community election.

If you are interested, you can send the board a note of support for nomination of the Sydney 2002 Gay Games and Team San Francisco athletes for organization grand marshal. The main e-mail address for SF Pride is [info@sfp pride.org](mailto:info@sfp pride.org).

Said Ross Hayduk of Team SF, who spearheaded the campaign, "We had over 1,000 people representing the Bay Area in Sydney. It would be great if we could all participate in the 2003 festivities."

Info: [www.sfp pride.org/board.htm](http://www.sfp pride.org/board.htm) and [www.teamsf.org](http://www.teamsf.org). ▼

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(415) 487-5500

**City Clinic provides free or low cost, confidential, comprehensive sexually transmitted disease diagnostic and treatment services for anyone 12 years of age or older.**



## Gurevitch

◀ previous page

really allowed the organization to move forward."

Ms. Gurevitch was born February 11, 1948 in Moscow, Idaho. One of only three Jewish families in town, they eventually moved to Portland, Oregon. After graduating from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, Ms. Gurevitch moved to New York before eventually settling in the Bay Area. In the 1970s she received a master's degree in social work from San Francisco State University.

A member of the radical psychology movement in the 1960s,

Ms. Gurevitch worked with the Urban Indian Child Resource Center, the Asian Community Center, and the Jury Project.

In the early 1980s, she began her practice in Berkeley. Later she became a teacher at John F. Kennedy University. Described as a tireless mentor who inspired many a new therapist, Ms. Gurevitch was a generous and highly respected consultant to her peers.

Adelman said that Ms. Gurevitch's hobbies included cooking, biking, arts, politics, and people.

"She was interested in everything – from her clinical work to making the community and San Francisco better," Adelman said.

In addition to Adelman, Ms. Gurevitch is survived by a wide community of loving friends and family in San Francisco, Santa Rosa, and Portland, Oregon.

RACH is proceeding with its plans to hire a new executive director soon, and a memorial fund has been established in honor of Ms. Gurevitch. Tax-deductible contributions may be sent to RACH, 870 Market Street, Suite 742, San Francisco, CA 94102. On the memo line, please write Jeanette Gurevitch Fund.

Adelman said that a memorial will be held on Saturday, March 1. The time and location will be posted on RACH's Web site, [www.sfrach.org](http://www.sfrach.org). ▼

## COMMUNITY NEWS

## Condom code

◀ page 3

iors.

"I want to see an ad campaign that directly addresses the reasons why someone would choose to have unprotected sex," said Richard Broussard, a volunteer with the Stop AIDS Project's Positive Force, who initially fought the agency's decision to launch the controversial ads. "I know so many people who don't use condoms."

During a recent forum about the ad campaign, Broussard echoed the thoughts of many men in the audience who challenged the agency to examine how internalized homophobia and depression in the gay community may be contributing to the rising rates of HIV transmission.

"I may not be the best judge of why people get infected now. I don't know what it is like in 2003 to be negative and take risks with my health. But it's a real important question for us to ask and find out," Broussard said.

In San Francisco, a growing chorus of HIV prevention providers, medical professionals, and gay men are calling for messages that combat low self-esteem,

depression, and drug usage in gay men.

And the messages should not only address negative men. Positive men also need to be included in the campaigns.

"Why we want to be continuing our work with positive men, which is something that has gotten lost over the years, is the very factors that lead someone to become positive don't go away when they seroconvert," said Evans. "All the things that led them to become positive – whether its substance abuse, self-esteem issues – those things don't just go away. Those things may influence them to put others at risk."

Instead of focusing on condom usage or the ill-effects of living with AIDS, some in the gay community are calling for campaigns that delve deeper into the psyches of gay men and directly confront the root causes behind their self-destructive behavior.

"They don't look much at the drug and alcohol use," Dr. Bob Cabaj, director of behavioral health services for San Francisco's Department of Public Health, said of most HIV prevention campaigns. "A lot of people use drugs and alcohol as a setup to put themselves at risk."

Based on the clients he sees

through his private practice, Cabaj said many gay men never abandon the depression and self-hatred they experienced growing up.

"There is a legacy of depression or fear or self-rapprochement that gets carried out through life. I see it played out in people who think they can't move ahead in their careers or people who settle into their relationships and put themselves at risk for HIV," he said. "People don't like to address the fact that part of coming out is a lot of overcoming the shame heaped upon us."

At Stop AIDS, Evans said the agency is working with positive and negative men to address what some of the underlying issues are that may influence them to put themselves or others at risk.

"For agencies to have a blanket policy and message of 'Use a condom every time no matter what,' it doesn't allow us to address the realities of the ways people are making decisions. And we lose credibility within the gay community," said Evans. "We are in a particularly challenging position today to try to simultaneously address and reward gay men for making effective risk management choices about their sex. And sometimes, that includes not using condoms." ▼

## Sex toys

◀ page 5

difficult to determine since many HIV-positive women who have sex with women also report other risk factors – such as heterosexual intercourse or needle sharing – that are assumed to have been the cause of their infection.

"Failure to identify lesbian sex as a potential risk for HIV transmission may result in untoward

consequences," the doctors concluded in the article. "[P]rudence dictates that HIV-seronegative and HIV-seropositive [women who have sex with women] be counseled to use safe-sex practices with female partners."

According to Queen, the only sex toys that are easy to clean thoroughly are those made of hard materials like metal or Lucite and those made of silicone. Such toys can be boiled in water, placed in a dishwasher, or wiped with a ger-

mical cleanser or bleach and rinsed with water. For a toy made of more porous materials such as rubber – or if washing the toy between users would be too much of an interruption – Queen says "users would be well served to put a condom on it." ▼

The full case report can be accessed at [www.journals.uchicago.edu/CID/journal/contents/v36n3.html](http://www.journals.uchicago.edu/CID/journal/contents/v36n3.html)

## Male violence

◀ page 12

tudy?" Baum told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "There must always be an ability to find diversity within the area you're looking at, rather than sort of being like, 'Well there's nothing else out there so whatever we do will be better than that.'"

The report itself also lacked information on where victims could go for help, and almost astoundingly, added Baum, the report's authors, although working in cities where LGBT domestic violence services have a strong presence, never contacted those organizations for participants or information, and in fact seemed to be unaware that such programs existed. For instance, Michael Relf, one of the lead researchers of the Georgetown study, stated that he knew of only seven programs for gay male domestic abuse survivors, when NCAVP member organizations alone include 17 such

programs.

"It's not as if in the communities in these areas you wouldn't be sent in the right direction," said Baum. "It wouldn't have been hard to land at any of these doorsteps to find the right information."

In San Francisco, Community United Against Violence, a member of NCAVP, shared similar frustrations.

"What is not in dispute by people that do domestic violence work is that domestic violence happens in queer relationships just as often as it does in heterosexual relationships," said CUAV's Shawna Virago. "However the findings of this study are problematic because it's a very small sample of the queer men's community nationally. It's very skewed by who was even interviewed for data."

"Domestic violence as an issue still gets largely minimized or ignored when it comes to queer men's communities and so what

we need are studies that show the spectrum. The study was well intentioned but ill conceived."

NCAVP has contacted Georgetown to praise its intentions while raising questions about the study's methodology, said Baum, but the organization has not received a response. The *Bay Area Reporter* also could not reach the study's authors.

"We're not refuting the fact that this is an important issue," emphasized Baum. "What we're saying is that this is so important, it deserves better than this." ▼

Georgetown's full report can be found in the archives at [www.ajph.org](http://www.ajph.org). NCAVP annually publishes a domestic violence report, accessible at [www.avp.org](http://www.avp.org). For local information on same-sex domestic violence, contact CUAV at (415) 777-5500, or CUAV's crisis line at 333-HELP.

## Black AIDS Day

◀ page 13

treatment facilities or AIDS service organizations. We have to go out and find them," said Robertson. "Getting the results back 20 minutes later instead of waiting two weeks is a major anxiety reducer for me. Part of one's reluctance to go to get tested in the first place is having to wait two weeks for news you don't really want to hear. That is overwhelming for many people."

Oakland and San Francisco are two of more than 60 cities across the country that will sponsor pro-

grams on Friday to call attention to the problems faced by the black community and seek solutions to halt the epidemic.

A spoken word event will be held at the Jahva House, 3306 Lakeshore Avenue in Oakland, from 8 to 11 p.m. The artistic event is designed to encourage citizens to get educated, and get involved in efforts to advocate for better prevention, treatment and awareness programs.

In San Francisco, the Black Coalition on AIDS will host the local transmission of the second annual National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day and to locate local organizations participating in the campaign, log on to [www.blackaidsday.org](http://www.blackaidsday.org). ▼

range of issues regarding HIV health care in the African American community.

The national Web simulcast is coordinated by the Western Prevention Intervention Center of Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science and will take place at 10 a.m. The public is invited to BCA's offices at 489 Clementine Street, third floor, to participate and a community discussion will follow.

For more information about National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day and to locate local organizations participating in the campaign, log on to [www.blackaidsday.org](http://www.blackaidsday.org). ▼

## LEGAL NOTICES

## STATEMENT FILE 0263454-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: RYNS Limousine Service, 555 Jones Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94102. This business is conducted by an individual partnership signed Trevor Scott Yee and Rolando Galanay Della Cruz. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on January 01, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/07/03.

JAN. 16, 23, 30, FEB. 6, 2003

## STATEMENT FILE 0263346-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Chutney, 511 Jones Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94102. This business is conducted by an individual signed Mohammad A. Bajwa. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on January 01, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/02/03.

JAN. 16, 23, 30, FEB. 6, 2003

## STATEMENT FILE 0263358-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Naan 'N' Curry, 642 Irving Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94122. This business is conducted by an individual signed Gohar Rashid. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on January 01, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/02/03.

JAN. 16, 23, 30, FEB. 6, 2003

## STATEMENT FILE 0263483-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: S.F. Track And Field Association, 584 Castro Street #374 San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an unincorporated association other than a partnership signed Allen Eggman. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on January 01, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/24/03.

JAN. 16, 23, 30, FEB. 6, 2003

## STATEMENT FILE 0263397-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Regney & Associates, 144 Putnam Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by a general partnership signed Thomas E. Hicks and Todd B. Crosby. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on January 01, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/06/03.

JAN. 23, 30, FEB. 6, 13, 20, 2003

## STATEMENT FILE 0263398-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Faye & Anne Accessories, 1028 Stockton Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94108.

This business is conducted by an individual signed Arlinda Tang. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/24/2003.

JAN. 30, FEB. 6, 13, 20, 2003

## STATEMENT FILE 0263482-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Moving Finger Press, 369 Jersey Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94114-3709. This business is conducted by an individual signed Steve Susyov. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/21/2003.

JAN. 30, FEB. 6, 13, 20, 2003

## STATEMENT FILE 0263850-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: AltarBoy Productions, 4524 18th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by a general partnership signed Joseph N. Graham and William D. Parker. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on January 21, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/21/2003.

JAN. 16, 23, 30, FEB. 6, 2003

## IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC-03-540007

In the Matter of the Application of Elizabeth Carryl Bonem for Change of Name. The application of Elizabeth Carryl Bonem for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Elizabeth Carryl Bonem has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Lathem Avery Bonem. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 10th day of March at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

JAN. 16, 23, 30, FEB. 6, 2003

## IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC-03-540002

In the Matter of the Application of Robert Michael Selleck. For Change of Name. The application of Robert Michael Selleck for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Robert Michael Selleck has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Robert Michael Cascella. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 4th day of March at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

JAN. 16, 23, 30, FEB. 6, 2003

## IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC-03-540002

In the Matter of the Application of Robert Michael Selleck. For Change of Name. The application of Robert Michael Selleck for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Robert Michael Selleck has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Robert Michael Cascella. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 4th day of March at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

JAN. 16, 23, 30, FEB. 6, 2003

## STATEMENT FILE 0263885-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: National Building Maintenance & Janitorial, 4320 Irving Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed Larry Mak. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on January 22, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/22/2003.

JAN. 30, FEB. 6, 13, 20, 2003

## STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME. FILE NO: 00212620-00

The following person(s) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: Rogue Art Space. Located at: 4360 19th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business was conducted by a general partnership signed Kevin Grady and Mark S. Rubinstein. The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on: August 29, 2001.

JAN. 30, FEB. 6, 13, 20, 2003

## STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME. FILE NO: 2001-0251296-00

The following person(s) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: Real Tech Person, 104 Maynard Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business is conducted by an individual signed Francis Balmonite Dominguez. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on January 27, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/27/2003.

JAN. 30, FEB. 6, 13, 20, 27, 2003

# BAY AREA REPORTER CLASSIFIEDS

## LEGAL NOTICES

City and County of San Francisco  
Department of Human Services  
Request for Qualifications #232

Dear Potential Applicant: The City and County of San Francisco Department of Human Services (DHS) is seeking an individual or organization to provide assistance in quality management for parenting education providers. Parenting education providers need to be screened and certified to become an approved provider who can be utilized by the Department. The respondent will be responsible for the coordination of the system by regularly communicating with both the parenting education providers, parents in need of parenting and the Department. The respondent will provide technical assistance to the current certified providers to ensure that the classes are topical, convenient, accessible, and well taught. The respondent will provide technical assistance to assist in new providers to become certified. The respondent will monitor Approved Providers to ensure that quality baseline standards are maintained. An RFQ packet may be picked up at SFDHS Office of Contract Management, 1650 Mission Street, Suite 300, Monday-February 3, 2003. Office hours are 8:30AM to 5:00PM. The RFQ packet and subsequent updates may be downloaded from the City's website on or after February 3, 2003. Go to <http://SUNSETCLSECA.US/PHDS.NSF> and click on the "Consultants and Professional Services" link. The Respondents conference will be held on Monday, February 10, 2003 at 1650 Mission St., Suite 300, SE, CA. For further information, call Johanna Gendelman, at (415) 557-5162. Due date for responses is Friday, March 7, 2003 at 5:00 PM.

02/06/03 • CNS-483488#  
BAY AREA REPORTER

STATEMENT FILE 0264103-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Excellent Affairs, 680 Mission Street Apt. 25(J), San Francisco, Ca. 94105-4037. This business is conducted by an individual signed Alex A. Cooper, Jr. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on January 29, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/29/2003.

FEB. 6, 13, 20, 27, 2003

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC-03-540573

In the Matter of the Application of Donna Cathy McCaskill For change of Name. The application of Donna Cathy McCaskill for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Donna Cathy McCaskill has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Donna Cathy Muir. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 24th day of March at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

FEB. 6, 13, 20, 27, 2003

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC-03-540585

In the Matter of the Application of Sandra Caus For change of Name. The application of Sandra Caus for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Sandra Caus has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Sandra Emily Novak. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 07th day of April at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

FEB. 6, 13, 20, 27, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0264039-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: New Fashion Design, 888 Brannan Street #259 San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by an individual signed Hyang Suk Oh. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on January 28, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/28/2003.

FEB. 6, 13, 20, 27, 2003

City and County of San Francisco  
Department of Human Services  
Request for Qualifications #235

Dear Potential Applicant: The City and County of San Francisco Department of Human Services (SFDS) announces its intent to seek responses from agencies or organizations interested in providing and operating a supportive residential hotel for formerly homeless individuals in San Francisco. The contract period will run from April 15, 2003 to June 30, 2004. An RFQ packet may be picked up at SFDS, Office of Contract Management, 1650 Mission Street, Suite 300, on or after January 31, 2003. Office hours are from 8:30 AM to 5 PM. RFQ packets will also be available on the Internet at <http://www.sfgov.org/oca/purchasing.htm> click "BIDS and Contracts Database", then the "Consultants and Professional Services" link and look for RFQ #235. The Respondents Conference will be held on February 18, 2003 at 10 AM at 1650 Mission St., 3rd Floor Conference Room, SF, CA. For further information, call Paason Yau at (415) 557-6523. Due date for responses is March 4, 2003 at 5:00 PM. NO EXCEPTIONS.

02/06/03 • CNS-495824#  
BAY AREA REPORTER

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E06

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E07

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E06

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E08

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E06

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E07

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E07

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E07

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E06

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E08

## RENTALS

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E06

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E06

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E06

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E06

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E18

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E07

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E18

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E08

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E07

## REAL ESTATE



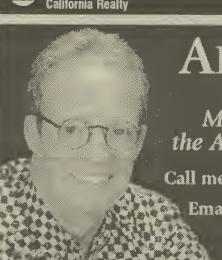
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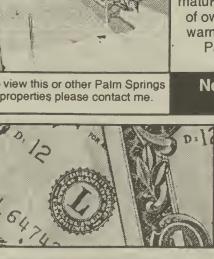


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## CLASSIFIEDS

## SERVICES

- HEADSHOTS
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## DOMESTIC PARTNERSHIP PHOTOGRAPHY

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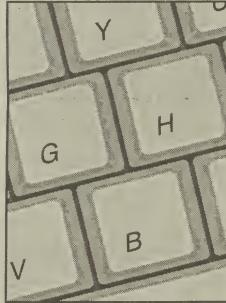
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## positive space > polk | February 4

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TUESDAY | 6:30 - 8pm | Club Rendez-Vous | 1312 Polk Street (at Bush Street)

## positive space > date night | February 14

Express dating goes monthly! Learn new communication skills and practice them on the nearest Positive Force guy. Painless practice makes perfect.

FRIDAY | 6:30 - 8pm | Castro Community Space | 501 Castro Street (at 18th Street)

## plus additions | February 18



Have you recently been to a PLUS Seminar and there was some information you missed? Do you want to reconnect with other former PLUS participants? Then plan on coming to PLUS Additions where each month a topic from the PLUS weekend will be discussed in depth.

TUESDAY | 6:30 - 8pm | Positive Force Offices | 539 Castro Street (18th/19th Street)

## café positive | February 20



Ready for a new afternoon routine? Make a date with other HIV+ men at Café Positive, the daytime social support event that's open to everyone and hosted by the volunteers of the Castro Country Club. Gab with the guys about the latest treatment newsflash and what you think is around the corner. Beverages and light lunch are on us!

THURSDAY | 1 - 3pm | Castro Country Club | 4058 18th Street (Hartford Street)

## positive space > chat café | February 26



Bring your gift of gab to this coffee talk. Where better to get through your Hump Day than with the men of Positive Force?

WEDNESDAY | 6:30 - 8pm | Chat Café | 498 Sanchez Street (at 18th Street)

## positive space > soma | February 27



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**Lambda Lit Awards finalists named**  
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page 35

**Indies at Castro**  
'Girls Will Be Girls'  
opens SF Indie Film Fest.

page 31



**Reaping his honors**  
Adam 'Five Flights' Bock  
wins SF playwright award.

page 32



# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 33 • No. 6 • 6 February 2003



## Waking up with Reno

Comedian plays the Castro Theatre with Joan Baez

by David Lamble

**F**riday night at the Castro Theatre, Marc Huestis departs from his customary role as the Dick Clark of Camp (Christmas with Christina Crawford, Linda Blair Live) to host a most unusual event: *Joan Baez & Reno: Together At Last*, part celebrity gala, part antiwar rally, climaxing in a one-time-only performance piece pairing Baez and Reno, with some of the proceeds going to benefit the ACLU Foundation. The evening, which will include an appearance by *Pentagon Papers* activist Daniel Ellsberg, kicks off with a screening of *Reno: Rebel Without a Pause*, directed by Nancy Savoca (*Dogfight*). Another highlight: a medley of Baez's greatest ballads.

Huestis notes that he first spotted Reno's unique talent in the '80s, when they were both working with performer/activist Tede Matthews. He feels that her self-deprecating yet confrontational humor contains just a touch of Lenny Bruce. "Her film deals with the ramifications of living so close to Ground Zero, but from a non-FOX News way. It deals with the mind of someone left of center, someone with a question mark after each sentence.

"Two months after 9/11, when she first debuted the show in New York, she had the guts to criticize Giuliani, when no one else would," says Huestis, "and certainly she had the guts to criticize George Bush when no one else did."

page 39 ►

## Tie him up, tie him down

### Aerialist Benn Mendoza is in the 'House'

by Michael Wade Simpson

**B**enn Mendoza will come tie himself up in silk and dance upside down at your next party if you have a 75-foot ceiling. He's 22, a bit of a renegade, and one of the few men in the world who can put "aerialist" on their résumé. A little bitter about the commercial dance scene in LA, he told the BAR that rehearsing for Rapt Performance Group's multimedia dance performance *House* (Feb. 6-16 at SomArts Cultural Center) made him fall in love with dance again.

But mostly he talked about his three best friends: rope, tissue, and hoop. That's circus talk for Mendoza's specialties, aerial dance and contortions using rope, a steel hoop, and "tissu" the long silk material which aerialists climb, swing, and fall from (deliberately).

San Francisco is the American hotbed of circus and acrobatic training. There's a huge revival of animal-free "New Circuses," especially in Europe, and the crossover effect has made its way into "artistic" dance communities. Modern dance in San Francisco has be-

come more and more acrobatic over the years, and no one bats an eye anymore when someone swings in from the wings on a rope and pulleys.

*House* is typical of new-millennium ideas about modernizing modern dance. "So much of modern dance is boring," said Austin Forbord, one of the Rapt company founders and choreographers. What they offer instead is a blend of music, projections, narrative, humor, and wild, acrobatic dancing. "It's fun," said Mendoza. "I was so tired of doing Brittany Spears."

Rapt, founded by Forbord and Shelley Trott, who are married and expecting their first child very soon, is also the name of their production company. They are also documentary filmmakers. Their *Artists in Exile: A Story of Modern Dance in San Francisco* played recently at Yerba Buena Center, and they have been working on *Normal People*, based on the effects of war on the population of Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. The idea of the beginning of *House* came to the directors while they were filming in Sarajevo. The piece was originally



Daring young man flies high in the air: Benn Mendoza

page 34 ►

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Photo: Kent Taylor

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# State of the ego

## Secrets of male self-esteem

by Roberto Friedman

When Justice is gone, there's always Force. And when Force is gone, there's always Mom, Hi, Mom! That's a line from Laurie Anderson's ancient song "O Superman," but it could also serve as a three-sentence summary of President Bush's wacky State of the Union speech. Has anyone discounted the "Mom" factor in our headlong rush to war? Remember, *Babs Bush* is one tough pad of steel wool 'til she gets what she wants.

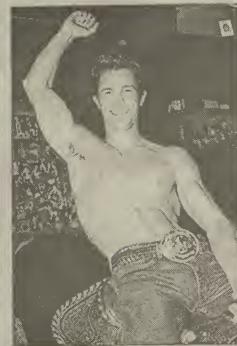
So we were watching the sorry S. of the U., trying to guess what his new excuse to invade Iraq would be (does Mom have a summerhouse there?), when it hit us: Never "misunderestimate" (to use W. lingo) the fragility of the male ego!

In a nutshell: A man wants to be looked up to, admired for his brains or his brawn, his music or his muscles, his sensual process or his sexual prowess. Anything can help salve the male ego: power, prestige, status in the community; sashes, lashes, *anything*. Why, even *Out There* has a fan (or two) out there, though we don't kid ourselves that the ability to write wry commentary about the passing scene counts for very much in the grand scheme of things.

Born with that silver spoon firmly in mouth, W. has never really had to prove himself. Getting all pumped up as a wartime leader sure worked for *FDR*, but can't W. please find some other way to work up ego and work off testosterone? We think *Bubba* had a room behind the Oval Office dedicated expressly to that purpose.

### Bronco buster

Now here's a man who clearly doesn't need his ego stroked (perhaps we could be helpful in



Ride 'em, *Urban Cowboy*!

stroking his other attributes?) This is musical-comedy star **Matt Cavanaugh**, who plays the **John Travolta** role in the soon-to-open Broadway musical of *Urban Cowboy*.

Sounds like a sure flop, but if the songs are half as catchy as his crotch, it may succeed. And what a challenge to librettists, finding ways to keep his abs visible. We wish we all had such problems.

Equally toothsome young film actor **Martin Compston** plays a Glasgow teen just beginning to build some self-esteem in director **Ken Loach's** *Sweet Sixteen*, screening as part of the Human Rights Watch International Film Festival, Feb. 7-9 at Pacific Film



Martin Compston (right) in *Ken Loach's Sweet Sixteen*.

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Loach, never one to shy away from portraying the corrosive effects of poverty on the human spirit, is this year's recipient of the HRW fest's **Irene Diamond** Lifetime Achievement Award. Info at [www.hrw.org/iff](http://www.hrw.org/iff).

### Wicked li'l town

We were in the audience last week at the Victoria Theatre to cheer on rock-musical star **Kevin Cahoon** as he sang the gonads off *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*. And, gee, who should be seated right next to us but local celeb **Kennedy**, the very hairdresser responsible for creating *Hedwig's* head wigs! Charming K. enjoyed the show in the company of a client from Glamarama, a hair salon to the rock-stars, and she looked marvelous.

It's great to see a long run in

something other than a stocking at the old burlesque house on 16th St. Tix to *Hedwig* are on sale for performances through March 30, and word is it will probably extend beyond. Box office: (415) 392-4400.

### Mum's the word

Rumors are flying fast and furious that gay icon **Lily Tomlin** will be attending the **Joan Baez/Reno** affair at the Castro this Friday. After all, Reno and Tomlin are old gal pals, and LT and her partner **Jane Wagner** have produced several of the Ren's endeavors. OT queered producer **Hostess Huestis** to see if there was any truth to these reports.

The normally loquacious impresario's response was brief. "To quote that great sage-a-Go-Go, **Belinda Carlisle**, 'Our lips are sealed,'" said he. "But I promise there will be some exciting surprises in store." Thanks, we guess.

### Invisible gam shot

It's old news that *Chronicle* wife and erstwhile film star **Sharon Stone** is suing some poor shubs who want to make a sequel to *Basic Instinct* (without her). But too bad if you think, as we do, that Stone's recent deposition in the trial might resemble her famous star turn (leg turn?) in *BI*. Her lawyers have had the videotape sealed — and they're crossing their legs ever so tightly.

### Equine and fine

Just two days remain to catch the wittiest art installation currently on view in a San Francisco



gallery: former Bay Area artist **Michelle Rollman's** *Dark Horse* is on display at New Langton Arts, 1246 Folsom St., through February 8. The show's centerpiece, *Sleep* (2001), a full-scale re-imagining of the famous horse's-head-in-the-bed scene from *The Godfather*, installed from the horse's point of view. The ever-inventive Rollman puts animals, sex, and death together in surprising ways that bestialists can only imagine. Info at [www.newlangtonarts.org](http://www.newlangtonarts.org).

### Otherwise engaged

Who needs Reality TV when we have the real thing right here in SF? Actress **Elsa Wolthausen**, currently starring in the **John Fisher** camp comedy *Amnesia* at Theatre Rhino, appeared on trash TV's *Blind Date* in a memorable episode titled, "Disengaged." In the show, EW dropped the bomb that she'd just broken off an engagement hours before, thus securing her a permanent place in

next page ►

## THEATRE



(Left to right) Durand Ford and Brian Trybom: a form of spiritual ministry conducted in the bedroom.

## Passion plays

### Sexual roundelay 'In the Garden' at NCTC

by Richard Dodds

The age of miracles may have passed, but little Jesus still roam the planet to test and elevate us. That is one of the messages taken from *In the Garden*, a play that combines sexual roundelay with an explosion of provocative theological and philosophical questions.

The mysterious Gabe — college student or homeless hustler — may be one of those little Jesuses, and his form of ministry takes place mainly in the bedroom, where his partners may be male, female, or a combination of both. In addition to pliantly providing his acolytes with the best sex they've ever had, he admonishes them before and after for the spiritual voids in their lives.

Norman Allen's play, first seen in 2001 at the DC-area Signature Theatre, is having its second production as part of New Conservatory Theatre Center's Pride season of gay-oriented plays. It's a strong staging of a play dense with ideas and leavened with spurts of humor.

The Jesus connection is clear from the moments the lights come up and we see a naked Gabe in bed with his arms stretched crucifixion-wide. It is the bed of a married college professor who gets an earful after his sexual needs have been sated. "There is still honor outside the classrooms of cynicism," Gabe scolds the professor before leaving with his

wife's Bible.

Soon, the wife and her paramour, a ruthless businessman who happens to be the professor's best friend, are in bed with Gabe, before seeking out his comforts on their own. Beyond the great sex, Gabe can provide his coital partners with insight into warm hearts hidden by their hardened exteriors.

Director Christopher Jenkins' smooth and sometimes stylized staging of the multi-scene play helps focus the raging spiritual debates. Still, this is a play that requires concentration, and the actors do their part in clarifying the ingredients.

Kali Johnson plays the professor as a hip intellectual, but not hip enough for his jet-setting fashion-editor wife, played with grand hauteur by Stephanie Paul. Durand Ford cuts an imposing figure as the power-suited, ponytailed businessman, and Megan Towle plays his fiancée with wry charm.

As Gabe, Brian Trybom is convincingly passionate in his diatribes, but less convincing as a reflection of the other characters' descriptions of him. Clearly older than Gabe's 18 years (or maybe just 16), Trybom does not possess the angelic countenance that seduces the other characters, and which would help balance an unattractive surliness that becomes his dominant attitude.

*In the Garden* is a short play, just 100 minutes including an intermission, and there isn't a wast-

ed breath on stage. If you're willing to enter this thicket with an engaged mind, you should find rewards that don't evaporate when the play is over. ▼

*In the Garden* will run through March 30 at New Conservatory Theatre Center. Tickets are \$18-\$28. Call 861-8972.

## Out There

◀ previous page

the Blind Date Hall of Shame.

Maybe emotional or mental disengagement explains her decision to do the anything-for-one's-15-seconds show. Though none of the recognition she's received for her acting work (including *LA Weekly* and Critics Circle Awards, and *Entertainment Weekly* declaring she has "the charisma and timing of a young Bette Midler") has garnered the amount of attention as her blind date, Wolthausen says she's through with trash TV. "I've been asked to do a bunch of reality shows since, but I've turned them all down." ▼



Elsa Wolthausen dropped a bomb.

love to perform, but being this sort of made-for-TV version of myself? It's just way too weird." ▼

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# Bold and contemporary

## MTT essays Boulez, other French composers

by Philip Campbell

After a month back on the podium at Davies Hall, San Francisco Symphony Music Director Michael Tilson Thomas is now taking February off. Nev-

ertheless, his last fortnight of concerts will linger in memory until his return in March.

During his absence, legendary cellist and conductor Mstislav Rostropovich and French conductor Yan Pascal Tortelier should keep things interesting. Whether

they can equal his audience appeal remains to be seen.

Last week, MTT delivered one of his characteristic theme programs, with particularly strong results. Bold contemporary works and two scores from early in the 20th century comprised an all-French evening. Symphony subscribers and concert cherry-pickers all agreed that no one manages this sort of festival agenda better.

The event began with a short piece by Pierre Boulez called "Messagesquise" ("Message Sketch"). Quite literally a sketch with a message, it was composed as a birthday tribute to the great music champion and conductor Paul Sacher. As leader of the Basel Chamber Orchestra, he commissioned and premiered over 80 important works, most notably, some of Bartok's best scores.

A musical icon in his own right, Boulez constructed a cryptogram based on Sacher's last name. It is brief and intriguing, just enough music to be filling, and just enough wit to make a pleasing homage. Scored for seven violoncellos, with one serving as soloist, "Messagesquise" proved a perfect curtain-raiser, and allowed Peter Wyrick a chance to shine.

The next piece, *Couleurs de la cité céleste* (*Colors of the Celestial City*), may have been meatier, but it was hardly more interesting. This is Messiaen at his least compromising, yet, ironically, most characteristic. The trademark bird calls, mystical references and coloristic sonorities are vintage, but the scoring, lacking the cushioning of strings, is a little harsh. It is beautiful and meaningful music — not the sensuous, but still the exotic Messiaen.

Another orchestral veteran, pianist Robin Sutherland, was given a solo role. Always reliable and an exciting presence, he essayed his part with brilliant ease. The other players relished the opportunity to use their gongs, tam-tams, tubular bells, xylophone and cencerros (tuned Cuban cowbells). The resulting din sounded like a glorious Balinese gamelan.

In one of his typically amusing and instructive asides, MTT called Messiaen a post, post-Duke



MTT reviews a score with SF Symphony Chorus Director Vance George.

Ellingtonian. The composer himself said he was a "rhythmitician." The proof was in the performance.

The second half of the concert was given over to more familiar French composers. Maurice Ravel's Sonata for Violin and Cello has been reworked by the orchestra's own Mark Volkert for String Orchestra. The commission came from the SFS and was receiving its world premiere.

Volkert has mainly tinkered with sonorities in the distribution of parts. The results are true to the composer's spirit, but create something like a meditation on the original score. The added richness allowed by more players was exceptionally pleasing to the ear, and the musicians followed MTT's rather fussy direction while still maintaining a chamber style.

The concluding piece was Debussy's *La Mer*. Tilson Thomas recorded it years ago, and he still shows an affinity for it. The gorgeous almost-symphony remains the only score by the great Impressionist that can close a concert with a bang. It was a good performance, though there were more than a few moments of uncertain ensemble. Still, this was an uncommonly full and satisfying evening.

### Chorus of men

The previous week was devoted to an all-Bruckner concert, with much more variable results. Anton Bruckner is not a composer associated with MTT. The maestro's predecessor, Herbert Blomstedt, is the current worldwide

conductor of choice. Based on the recent performances of the mighty Symphony No. 7, however, the jury is still out on MTT.

The concert began promisingly, with two choral works with Men of the San Francisco Symphony Chorus under Director Vance George. Both were infrequently performed pieces, and one, the almost cantata-like "Helgoland," proved a happy discovery. The stirring virility of George's Chorus made a convincing case for a festival piece that might seem like a bit of nationalistic posturing in another composer's hands.

The brief "Trosterin Musik for Men's Chorus and Organ" is not in the same league, but it served as an impressive warm-up. If only the Symphony, which occupied the second half of the bill, had remained as focused.

The conductor undoubtedly intended to present a more lithe and cogent Brucknerian statement. He succeeded in avoiding the feeling of meandering that plagues some performances, but, unlike Blomstedt, he sidestepped the cumulative exaltation. There was momentum throughout, and many insights, especially in the long and heartfelt Adagio, yet the great blaze of sunlight that usually shines through the Finale was unconvincing.

Bruckner is not a composer for every music-lover — until one hears a great performance. That great performance may still be on the horizon for MTT. ▼

# Lou Harrison, RIP

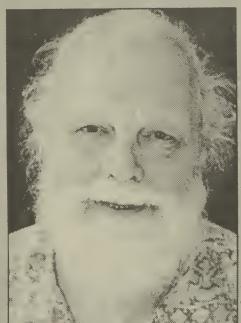
by Jason Serinus

Lou Harrison, the dean of American gay composers, died suddenly on Sunday evening, February 2, in Lafayette, Indiana. Harrison, 85, was being driven from Chicago to a weeklong festival of his music at Ohio State University when in the presence of his young lover, Todd Burlingame, and two University students, he stumbled and fell upon getting out of the car. At pretime, the coroner had not yet determined the exact cause of death.

Harrison was born in Portland, Oregon, on May 14, 1917, and his contribution to contemporary music was enormous. In addition to his many works in every medium, some written for the American Gamelan instruments designed by his late partner William Colvig, Harrison was responsible for the reassembling and premiere of Charles Ives' Symphony No. 3; worked with Virgil Thompson as a critic at the *New York Herald Tribune*; and composed scores for choreographers Remy Charlip (one of his early lovers), Merce Cunningham, Jean Erdman, and Mark Morris. Harrison's score for Morris' *Rhymes with Silver* was written for cellist Yo-Yo Ma. Most recently, Harrison had completed work on a fine art edition of a major new book, and had arranged fellow gay composer Ned Rorem's return to the West Coast for San Francisco's Other Minds Music Festival's March 5 premiere of Rorem's magnum opus song cycle, *Evidence of Things Not Seen*. Harrison's last words to Charles Amirkhanian, director of the festival, were, "When you pick up Ned at the airport, I command you to give him a big hug."

Reached by phone in New York, Rorem, 80, explained that the two met when Rorem was 19. "Lou was utterly Californian in the sense that he was laid-back and quite Oriental. There's nothing that Philip Glass and all those boys are doing that Lou didn't do 50 years ago. He was crazy, eccentric, completely likable, totally out of the closet, and a Quaker and Pacifist like me. At his death, he was becoming more and more appreciated. The fact he was 85 just makes it worse, because the older a person gets, you never think they'll die. Another leaf from the family tree has fallen."

A tribute for Lou Harrison is planned for the Other Minds Festival, where Rorem will speak. For information, call (415) 934-8134. ▼



Harrison was "utterly Californian"



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## DANCE

# Party favors from San Francisco Ballet

## 70th anniversary gala kicks off new season

by Stephanie von Buchau

Performing arts mavens understand that a "gala" is foremost an evening for fundraising and buttering up the patrons. Any art that ensues is usually an accident. Yet San Francisco Ballet's Helgi Tomasson has tried, in the last third of his 18-year tenure, to raise the level of entertainment, style and art at these self-congratulatory events.

Unfortunately, the Ballet's 70th Anniversary Gala, Wednesday a week ago at the War Memorial Opera House, got off to a lumbering start from which one feared it would not recover. Yet it did, whipping the inebriated but enthusiastic audience into screams of delight by the end of the long, grueling program. Talk about saving the best for last. The company's undisputed leading ballerinas — Lorena Feijoo and Yuan Yuan Tan (in strictly alphabetical order) — each produced the kind of dance frisson that sets your hair on end.

Tan and Vadim Solomakha (whose modest demeanor is looking a little pale as she grows in star wattage, though he still handles her with gracious assurance) performed Victor Gsovsky's 1949 "Grand Pas Classique" (music by Auber). As retro as Fishtaware and just as colorful, this simulacrum of Imperial Russian ballet requires supreme balances from the lady, and then foot- and air-work to die for in both variations. Tan now balances with such musical ease that she has the audacity to smirk at the audience afterward, but it is done with such innocent abandon you can hardly fault her for being pleased with herself.

This very formal, very "white" ballet was immediately followed by Val Caniparoli's "No Other," made in 2002, when it appeared as SFB's contribution to a Richard Rodgers dance celebration in New York. Caniparoli has always been a musical choreographer, but occasionally he hears something that spoils the flow of the dance for me. This time he heard something as amazing as it was unlikely — eroticism in "Under the Southern Cross" from Rodgers' *Victory at Sea*. You'd recognize the tune as that Latin favorite we call, "No other love have I." With its beguiling rhythm, Caniparoli sets a steamy love duet

for Feijoo and the always sexy, stalwart Damian Smith. Those who weren't already reduced to jelly by Tan and Solomakha were drooling wrecks by the end of "No Other."

This was necessary, because the first half of the evening, 30 minutes late to start with, was pretty tepid, and after an interminable intermission, the pas de deux from *Giselle* (Julie Diana and Zachary Hench) was distinctly weak tea, almost student-recital stuff when torn out of its theatrical context. She's pretty and soft, but without drama or grandeur, while he is too stiff and gangly to be a convincing Romantic hero.

### Exploding men

Just as one had given up hope, however, Tomasson sprang a surprise, the world premiere of a new piece that was as concise and packed with incident, yet unpretentious and stimulating as anything he's done here. I hope that "Concerto Grosso" (misleading minimalist title for a work that could easily be called "Five Men Exploding") is not hidden away as just a party piece, because it's not only a crowdpleaser, it shows off the company's considerable depth.

The music was a puzzle. And here is the place to complain that, since the death of Denis de Coteau, SFB has slipped back into the bad habit of giving only minimal program information about the music. "Concerto Grosso" is called a "transcription" of a sonata by Arcangelo Corelli (contemporary of Handel) by his pupil Francesco Geminiani. Yet it sounded as contemporary as 1950s serialism. Whatever, it was perfect for the edgy masculinity of Tomasson's conception. Five guys in attractive (uncredited) unitards showed off perfect unisons and heady, virtuosic solos.

Soloist Pascal Molat was supported by four corps men: Garrett Anderson, Jaime Garcia Castilla, Rory Hohenstein and Hansuke Yamamoto. It used to be that SFB corps males were there because they danced well enough, but had issues with posture, shape, hair, personality, whatever. Not any more. All four of these guys are so good-looking, technically sound, and bursting with personality that they could star in any lesser company. Molat, a new

recruit from France, is one of those virile knockouts in the Damian Smith mode. More, please.

If the rest of the evening had lived up to this, we may not have survived, but it didn't need to be so weak. "Divertissement d'Auber" (Lew Christensen) is a hopeless piece of choreography. His "Norwegian Moods" (Stravinsky) is not much better, but it got a charming performance from Gonzalo Garcia and adorable Clara Blanco. Balanchine's pas de trois from "Agon" was agony, partly because guest conductor Andrew Mogrelia — who was quite good with Tchaikovsky, Adam and Auber — couldn't figure out Stravinsky to save his soul.

Easier on the ears and eyes were Ivonice Satie's "Shogun" (Peter Brandenhoff and Joan Boada), Tomasson's "Chaconne" (Yuri Possokhov and a newly sophisticated Kristin Long) and the corps work in Balanchine's "Diamonds" (though Sarah Van Patten and Sergio Torrado are not ready for prime time). Except for "Agon," the music-making was at a high level (with Jean-Louis Leroux conducting the first half). This gala may not have started very well, but it ended with high hopes for the season to come. ▼

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# Those Eastern European boys

Piotr Anderszewski and Simon Trpceski are more than just beauties

by Tim Pfaff

The hype surrounding the release of Glenn Gould's two legendary recordings of Bach's *Goldberg Variations* — in new, improved sound, the thing record companies hype relentlessly in these, their declining days — had me in a lather, I admit. But the new set never arrived in Bangkok, Sony Classical's press department made the Clinton White House look stable and orderly, and eventually, I stopped caring.

Best of all, as soon as I did, along came Piotr Anderszewski's new CD of Bach's Partitas 1, 3, and 6 (Virgin Classics), and on first hearing I recognized the Gould for our time. While I'm not a purist regarding what keyboard

instrument Bach is played on, there have been precious few pianists since Gould (Ivo Pogorelich and Joanna MacGregor among them) whose Bach playing has talked to me. Murray Perahia's recent Bach, exemplified in his antiseptic Goldbergs and concertos, annoys me.

Anderszewski's new CD seems as original and daring as any Bach Gould ever committed to disc, and blows the best of the harpsichord competition, including Christophe Rousset, away.

The quality Anderszewski most conspicuously shares with Gould is the ability to maintain eerie clarity of counterpoint (and texture) at daredevil speeds. The related, and more seminal, artistic qualities the two pianists share are pointed articulation (of even the smallest figures), forward mo-



mentum of near-laser intensity, an Olympian perspective on the music that lends an air of uncanny relaxation to every aspect of interpretation, and distinct communication of the music's spiritual and emotional core without so much as a hint of preaching about it.

Anderszewski accomplishes all that without the acid eccentricity at the core of Gould's playing, and with an unfailing beauty of sound that was never a Gould goal, let alone achievement. Tonal beauty is, for me as for Gould, the least important of musical values. But I've never seen the point of dis-

paraging it, either, and the sheer beauty of Anderszewski's playing doesn't trump the deeper aspects of his artistry, and certainly doesn't interfere with my enjoyment of this often severe, always uncompromising music.

## Big technique

Anderszewski made his CD debut playing Bach in Harmonia Mundi's *New Interpreters* series. Such "debut discs" remain an oddly prominent feature of a CD industry that claims to be in crisis, and they appear in a profusion only the idle wealthy could keep up with. Among the few such current discs that goes beyond "promising" is the new Simon Trpceski CD from EMI.



The young, Macedonian-born pianist is a powerhouse who all but buries his big technique under even bigger musicianship. His all-Russian program includes music considered hard even by Russian standards, but display is never the point of Trpceski's playing, while thoughtfulness always is. During my first listening to this CD, there were more than a few moments when I thought he was underplaying the music or, worse, being callow. Inevitably, I was caught totally off-guard by something startling that he was merely setting the stage for with deceptively simple lead-ins.

In Stravinsky's "Trois mouvements de Petrouchka," I first thought he had missed the point

of the piece — certainly the character of *Petrouchka* — altogether. Then, in the haunting opening measures of the final movement, he summoned astonishing sonorities from the piano. Ironically, for a player this young, Trpceski's interpretations that take some living with before they reveal themselves fully.

In Scriabin's Fifth Sonata and Prokofiev's Sixth, he suffers only by comparison. Some of the greatest pianists of our day have recorded both in ways that linger in the ear, in several cases preemptively. Even Pogorelich haters, for example, agreed with Mme. Prokofiev, that his was surely the sound and sense the composer intended when he wrote the piece. Trpceski gets marks for simply holding the piece together, beyond which he offers a reading of uncommon clarity of textures. His Scriabin reaches that single long arc with incandescence at its peak that is the *sine qua non* of real Scriabin playing.

For all that, the unalloyed thrill is the seven-movement suite from Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker*, in Mikhail Pletnev's brilliant piano transcription. Here, Trpceski pulls off a feat I last heard from Pogorelich himself: drawing sounds from the piano — in both cases in transcriptions of orchestral works — indistinguishable from those of the orchestral instruments they're meant to imitate. (Listen to his "Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy.") The playing brims with character throughout, so much so that you sometimes forget what the orchestral original sounds like. Young pianists rarely have that something "extra" that allows them to go beyond playing convincingly to conveying their affection for the music they play. Trpceski has that — and a deep understanding of the Nut's dark shadows to boot. ▼

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# Girls will be drag queens

SF Indie Fest opens with drag comedy

by Gary Morris

The San Francisco Indie Fest's opening night entry, *Girls Will Be Girls* (2/6, Castro) made some noise at the most recent Sundance Festival, no small feat considering the tsunami of queer material there, including Macaulay Culkin as a murderous disco queen and Gina Gershon as a bisexual rocker. But this stone-funny drag send-up of *Valley of the Dolls* and *All About Eve* would stand out in any cinematic crowd.

Drag comedies can be as much of a drag as the tired queens who usually populate them. But *Girls* outstrips the competition thanks to a snappy, imaginative script, Pop Art playhouse sets, and commanding performances by the three principals.

Evie (Jack Plotnik) is the archetypal Evil Queen, a Kay Thompsonish hatchet-faced hag who presides over a collapsed acting career and a candy-colored apartment

the size of a football field. Evie's in a perpetual drug 'n' sex dream-world, from which she emerges to skewer her earnest lawyer son (a hunk with a micropenis) or her beleaguered roommate Coco Peru (Clinton Leupp). Into this dysfunctional little world comes Varla (Jeffrey Roberson, better known as Varla Jean Merman), a younger roommate who's also the daughter of Evie's late rival, an equally cheezy actress named Marla.

The film's fearless, vehemently un-p.c. script makes mincemeat of every target. When Evie sets up a phony accident for her son to litigate, she romances the guy who hit her: "You rammed me today, and I want seconds!" she screams into the phone. When she gets the guy in bed, he sticks a porn magazine over her face and starts kissing it while he's screwing her. Peeved at his lack of interest, she inquires, "What's wrong? Did my glass eye roll back?" (Kudos to what must have been a shoestring special ef-

fects budget for convincing us that Plotnik has a glass eye.) Some viewers will remember the actor as the queen reporter who strips to his tighty-whities in *Gods and Monsters*. Here he employs an improbably effective Paul Lynde imitation for much of his delivery. Or perhaps he's channeling Lynde's doppelganger Alice Ghostley. Either way, it works, beautifully.

## Channeling Coco

Equally strong is Clinton Leupp's Coco, who turned *Trick* into something watchable as the "acid queen" in the celebrated bathroom scene. Here she's a hopeless romantic who falls in love with her abortion doctor, then continues to get pregnant in order to have more abortions so she can date him. Coco is the main target of Evie, who does everything but set her on fire. (Well, she does shove her into a barbecue.) When Coco tries to talk seriously about abortions with Evie and asks how



*Girls Will Be Girls* sends up both *Valley of the Dolls* and *All About Eve*.

many she's had, Evie replies, "I've had more children pulled out of me than a burning orphanage."

Varla is a camped-up Eve Harrington to Evie's Marge Channing. She comes to Hollywood to "make it," and ends up literally doing so when a sleazy pimp puts her on the street. But Varla finds success in infomercials hawking a space-age toxic frozen dinner. Varla's appearance at La Casa de

Evie is not coincidental, but we won't spoil that for you here.

While some of the momentum fades during the middle, *Girls* picks up speed and moves in a surprisingly poignant direction by the end, as that literary trope beloved by high school teachers—"character development"—kicks in. Yes, in this world there's hope even for the most evil queens. It's a tribute to director Richard Day's imagination and his seemingly endless gift for aphorism ("Happy people always make such a racket," says Coco) that this brittle comedy also has satisfying moments of pathos. *Girls* deserves a wider audience than the film festival circuit, but you're advised to hie thee thither just in case. ▼

**Info on SF Independent Film Fest: (415) 820-3907, or [www.sfindie.com](http://www.sfindie.com).**

# Tough love in Big Sky country

'The Slaughter Rule' from the talented Smith brothers

by David Lamble

His place has seen better days." "No, it hasn't." "How would you know?" "Duh, Chutney, I grew up here." Roy Chutney (Ryan Gosling) and Tracy Two Dogs (Eddie Spears) are sparring in Roy's pickup as they cross the frozen, tundra-like boundaries of the Blackfoot Indian Reservation.

Roy and Tracy are the two most important players, the "alpha wolves," for their coach, Gideon Ferguson (David Morse), a wily old survivor who coaches the ugly ducklings cut from the local high school varsity football squad in a genetic mutation of the game called Six-Man. He supports his habit by peddling newspapers and collecting a government pension check.

Roy and Tracy help Gid beat a "rez" team using a particularly brutal West Texas variation of the game, called "smash mouth." Tracy, who leans to the American side of his hyphenated identity, reveals a gridiron toughness that might make even Vince Lombardi blush. "The thing about rez teams is: they're too proud. Get them in the hole, they'll give up. Fuck with their heads, and you'll fuck with their hearts."

*The Slaughter Rule*, a debut film from an unusually talented brother act, Andrew and Alex Smith, describes a very mean season in Montana's Big Sky country. Roy and Tracy will find their heads, hearts and friendship tested to the breaking point by one of the screen's most perplexing father figures. Both Roy and Tracy need new fathers: Roy's has died in an accident that looks suspiciously like suicide, and Tracy has a vicious redneck for a stepfather. Gideon offers a very tough love, which can both make and destroy a young man.

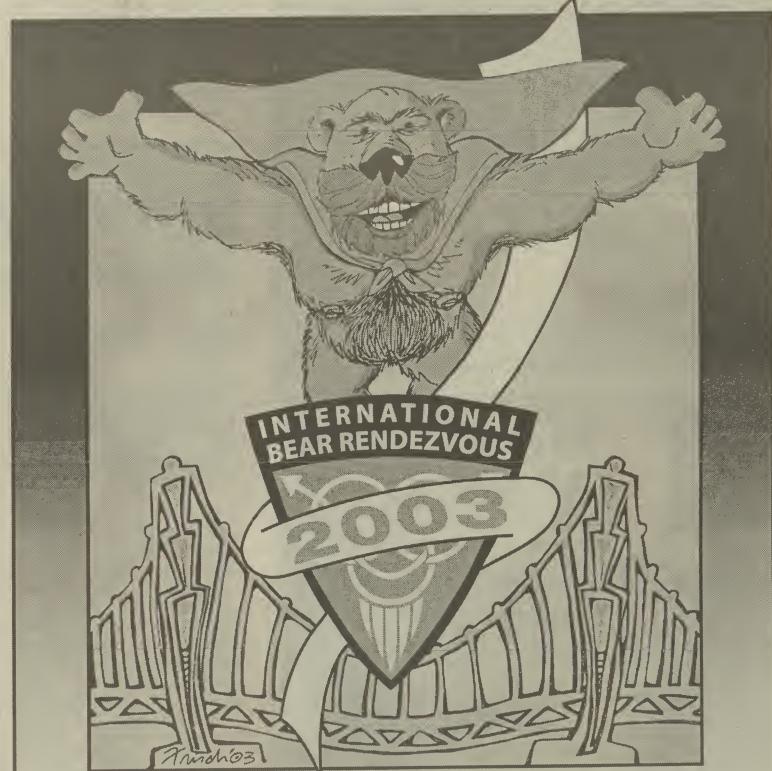
## Tender loins

Roy absorbs a lot of cruel blows. As he did in *The Believer*, Ryan Gosling reveals an incendiary screen personality whose most tender side is evoked after a good fight. Cut from the varsity by an old potato-face coach (the ghost of the same guy who cut Timothy Hutton from the swim team in *Ordinary People*), Roy faces the death of his hopes in a state known as the graveyard of dreams. "Chutney, you got no gumption. You ain't angry enough. And I ain't got room for anger enough."

Joining Gid's team of wild ranch boys, Roy finds his anger, and then falls hard for a young fe-

male bartender, Skyla Sisco (Clea DuVall). The story of how Roy's heart is broken, mended, and broken again by a tractor-pull of op-

posing female and male energy is a test of one's own heart. For the Smith brothers, *The Slaughter Rule* page 35 ▶



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Roy Chutney (Ryan Gosling, right) absorbs a lot of cruel blows.

# Bock locks up key playwright award

Critics pick 'Five Flights' as best new Bay Area play of the year

by Richard Dodds

**P**laywright Adam Bock, who left San Francisco for New York six months ago, is headed back to our city. Unfortunately, the talented gay writer will not be staying, but the reason for his brief return is still a happy one.

Bock recently won the Will Glickman Playwright Award, an annual prize for the best new play premiering in the Bay Area. This year that play was the popular comedy *Five Flights*, staged by the Encore Theatre Company in a thrice-extended run at the Thick House.

The cash prize has grown over the award's 19-year history, and Bock will be picking up a check for \$4,000 at a Feb. 11 luncheon attended by the award's administrators and the local theater critics who picked *Five Flights* for the prize. "I was psyched," Bock said of hearing the news of the prize. "I was totally stoked."

The award was created by Hortense Glickman in 1983 in honor of her husband, Broadway comedy writer Will Glickman. Previous gay winners have included Tony Kushner and, twice, John Fisher. Mrs. Glickman died in August at age 88, but was still the a-going till nearly the end.

"Mrs. Glickman came to see *Five Flights*, and she was very



Bock says he's "totally stoked."

complimentary afterward," Bock said from New York. "She was a very neat old lady."

While Bock is in town, he will be meeting with his Encore colleagues, who will be producing his new play *Thursdays* in San Francisco this fall. But first he will help shepherd another new play to a New York opening in early February.

*The Typographer's Dream* is being presented by the Obie-winning Clubbed Thumb theater group in what Bock called "an elaborate showcase-workshop." The official premiere is still to come.

"It's about a typographer, a ge-

ographer, and a stenographer," he said. "And instead of using psychology to understand people, I decided to create them through their jobs. It's about how the telling of the story helps create the story."

Bock likes to have a challenging set of parameters in place when he starts a play. With *Thursdays*, the coming premiere in San Francisco, he wanted to "write faster than the audience can hear. I'm trying to look at how in real life, drama comes out of a swirl of language, rather than pointed language."

After the 41-year-old Canadian moved to San Francisco in 1997, and when first *Swimming in the Shallows* and then *Five Flights* were produced here, his talent was soon being noted. But his move to New York was spurred as much by his blossoming relationship with a New York-based actor he met in San Francisco as by desires to broaden his professional sphere.

"I wrote for a long time about the beginnings of relationships because I'd always been in the beginnings," he said. "Some of the things that interest me now are how do you get along with someone you're going to be with for a long time."

The move to New York has brought another change to Bock's writing. "I think the reason I'm interested in writing faster than the audience can follow [in *Thursdays*] is the pace of New York," he said. "I'm trying to marry the two now, the openness of California with the sharpness of New York."

Bock has developed a nutshell

description of the differences between New York and San Francisco. "In San Francisco, if you go to yoga, people will think that's really good, that you've really done something today. Whereas in New York, you get out of yoga, get on your cell phone, and get going. I miss that, the dreamy sort of wander-y quality that San Francisco can have."

## 'Summer' time

"Suddenly last summer, Cathy knew she was being used for something evil." That's how the posters ominously teased audiences when the screen version of *Suddenly Last Summer* arrived in 1959. That "evil," of course, was based in cousin Sebastian's interest in young men.

Berkeley Rep's production of the 1957 Williams play opens Feb. 12, and the following night is the designated "night/OUT" performance for LGBT audiences. A post-show reception with members of the cast will complete the evening.

Les Waters, who previously directed *Big Love* at Berkeley Rep, is directing the lurid tale set in 1938 New Orleans that invokes lobotomies, cannibalism, and Oedipal love. Tickets at (510) 647-2949.

## Plush push

Two intriguing productions are sharing the Plush Room on the nights when singer Paula West isn't seducing audiences.

Vocal chameleon Connie Champagne is holding forth on Sunday nights through Feb. 23 with *Imagine Judy Garland*,

singing songs in the Garland style but that Garland never recorded — from George Gershwin to Joni Mitchell to Freddie Mercury. Frequent Champagne collaborators director F. Allen Sawyer and musical director Joe Collins (*Trauma Flintstone*) are part of the new show.

Lesley Hamilton, a 42nd Street Moon regular, is the Monday attraction through Feb. 18. She is the sole performer in *Blue Jelly*, a monologue about romantic frustrations interwoven with 15 pop and cabaret standards. Gene Price adapted Debby Bull's novel, and Jayne Wenger is the director.

Reservations for both productions are available at 885-2800.

## Short scenes

• David Henry Sterry is playing a teenage gigolo who serves wealthy matrons in *Chicken: A Ho Show* at the Marsh through March 1. Sterry adapted the one-man show from his own 2002 memoir. Call 826-5750.

• Thessaly Lerner is playing more than a dozen characters in *Champion!*, a comedy about the cutthroat business of high school cheerleading. Performances continue at LaVals Subterranean in Berkeley through Feb. 22.

• Playwright Mart Crowley sends word that *The Men on the Boys* will open at the Fountain Theatre in Los Angeles this summer. The sequel to *The Boys in the Band* had its world premiere last year at New Conservatory Theatre Center, and Crowley says he has made considerable changes based on his Bay Area reviews. ▼

Richard Dodds can be reached at [BARstage@aol.com](mailto:BARstage@aol.com).

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# Out on a limb

'A Feast of Fools' at Marines Memorial

by Richard Dodds

**T**here's no secret to how Geoff Hoyle makes a skeleton come to life in his new show at the Marines Memorial Theatre. The rods he uses to manipulate the bones are clearly visible. But the moves are accomplished with such recognizable human nuance that the how becomes irrelevant.

The British-born Hoyle, a longtime San Francisco comic institution, is a linguist of movement. In fact, he speaks not a word in *A Feast of Fools*, a 95-minute compendium of both new and classic sketches that culminates in Hoyle's priceless performance as a hoover with three legs.

In another limb trick, Hoyle manages to turn his own hand into an alien creature creeping up his chest. Much like Bill Irwin, with whom he once worked in the Pickle Family Circus, Hoyle excels at creating characters that are somehow out of step with the physics of the real world.

But Hoyle doesn't just play the flummoxed clown. The banana-nosed Mr. Sniff is very particular about what smells go up his oversized nostrils, and he will share his displeasure after sniffing out a supposedly malodorous member



As Mr. Sniff, Geoff Hoyle smells particularly pungent audience members.

of the audience.

There is also the obligatory poignant pantomime, this one titled *The Widower's Rendezvous*, and it was only time I found my mind wandering. Also, the bumbling magician Hoyle reuses the same shtick a bit too much, and while funny the first time or two, the laughter dwindles from the repetition.

Hoyle isn't alone on stage. Throughout the show, Gina Leishman is on hand to provide musical accompaniment, and is also called upon to register mock horror and embarrassment,

which she does without much comic subtlety. It's a hammy distraction that, surprisingly, noted director Richard Seyd didn't manage to correct.

But these few cited demerits don't prevent Hoyle from once again confirming his place as a Bay Area treasure. *A Feast of Fools* is hard to resist. ▼

*A Feast of Fools* will run at the Marines Memorial Theatre through Feb. 16. Tickets are \$25-\$45. Call (877) 771-6900.

## BOOKS

# Boy vey!

by Jim Nawrocki

*Brothers and Others in Arms: The Making of Love and War in Israeli Combat Units* by Danny Kaplan; Southern Tier Editions/Har-  
ington Park Press

The Haworth Press is noted for publishing a wide array of erotically charged fiction and nonfiction, from the recent *Rebel Yell* series (gay fiction by and about Southern men) to numerous titles that focus on the military (*A Night in the Barracks, Military Trade*). At first glance, Danny Kaplan's *Brothers and Others in Arms* looks like another attempt to exploit the sexual fantasy potential of the military. The cover is adorned with an attractive "soldier," and the book includes numerous first-hand accounts of cultural and sexual behavior from those who have served in the various branches of the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF). But Kaplan's book is actually a serious attempt to explore the issue of gays in the military as it applies to the IDF.

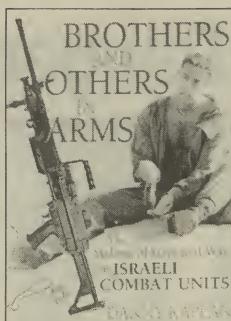
Given the ongoing debate about gays in the military with respect to the United States armed forces, it's tempting to approach Kaplan's book with the expectation that it might shed some light on the issue as it applies to the US. While there are some general observations that are likely true for all military populations, it's important to remember that Kaplan is dealing with a unique situation. As he points out, the military population of Israel coexists with the country's civilian population to a degree unheard of in the US or many other countries. This is due to many factors, including Israel's geographic size (it's about as big as New Jersey) and the fact that Israel's soldiers spend rela-

tively little amount of time away from home. In addition, service in the IDF is compulsory, and its forces have included women for quite some time. Also, the IDF population is religiously and ethnically homogenous.

Kaplan makes it clear that *Brothers and Others in Arms* is an anthropological project rather than a political one. "This book does not focus on policies, but rather it tries to show the complexities of being and doing that military life is about," he writes. Rather than debate the rightness or wrongness of gays in the IDF, Kaplan says "they simply are." The book is divided into two main sections. In the first, Kaplan presents the transcripts of interviews with soldiers from the various branches of the IDF, including paratroopers, pilot cadets, secret reconnaissance units and armored corps. In the second section, Kaplan provides a framework for and analysis of the data gleaned from the interviews.

**Strongly charged**

Naturally, the first-hand accounts of life in the IDF make intriguing reading. In conducting them, Kaplan seems to be more concerned with exploring gay soldiers' social, emotional and psychological adjustments to the military world than in probing the salacious details of this erotically-charged environment. He does ask, however, about such things as the communal showers, group masturbation, etc. The original interviews were conducted in what Kaplan describes as a "thick military-Hebrew" and rendered into American slang by translator Jacob Press. For those terms that defy translation or require explanation, Kaplan has included a glossary, as well as helpful parenthetical notes where needed.



In offering to present an analysis of the interviews, Kaplan has handed himself quite a task. The IDF is, to say the least, a complex and even confusing culture. Kaplan notes that it is even somewhat contradictory; although there are no formal limitations on gays in the Israeli military, the IDF culture (like most military cultures) enforces a kind of compulsory heterosexuality — at the same time encouraging "strong homosexual bonds." The IDF is the kind of atmosphere where soldiers can use terms like "faggot" (and their Hebrew equivalents) derisively, but still go out of their way to admire the genitalia of their well-endowed comrades. Kaplan brings a fair amount of clarity to this difficult topic, and carefully outlines how gay soldiers accommodate themselves to what he calls the "military" culture of the IDF.

Kaplan takes great pains to present his analysis in an appropriately academic light. He cites such landmark researchers as Vivian Cass, Eve Sedgwick, and Alfred Kinsey, among others, and he peppers his text with such graduate-school words as "hegemonic." Reading this section, one longs for the clarity of the soldiers' language in the interviews. This point aside, though, Kaplan's writing is for the most part lucid, and his analysis of the IDF "society" is helpful and interesting. ▼

# French twist

by Glen Helfand

*Mygale* by Thierry Jonquet; City Lights Noir, \$11.95

There's a genre of Euro thriller for those poolside afternoons in Palm Springs for those who prefer mad psychiatrists embarking on dangerous hypnosis experiments with femme fatales to Switzerland-set intrigues littered with legales and devious KGB defectors. The first person we meet in *Mygale*, French writer Thierry Jonquet's poisoned bonbon of a novel, is a smart, respected plastic surgeon haunted by dirty secrets, a character who places the book firmly in the more glamorous former category.

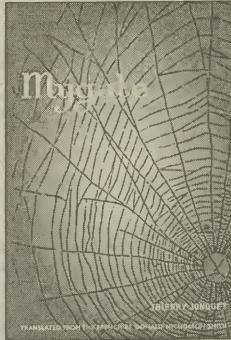
In the opening pages of this hard-boiled literary confection, the forlorn doctor, Richard Lafargue, strolls past the swans in the glassy pond on the grounds of his stately chateau, where he has a basement operating theater and keeps a lovely female creature named Eve dead-bolted in a satiny boudoir on the second floor. In her padded fortress, she idles the days playing the piano, painting pictures of her captor in drag, and fastidiously making up her face.

I was hooked on the third page when the pair drives through Paris in their black Mercedes: "The lights of the city penetrated

the car's interior in intermittent flashes, streaking her black silk sheath dress with fugitive dashes of brilliance." Very 1970s Helmut Newton.

Fittingly, we quickly learn that Richard and Eve have a seriously twisted relationship. She hammers at him by playing a song he abhors — "The Man I Love" — while he barks orders at her through an over-amplified home intercom system. He seems fascinated by her perfect, creamy body and lustrous mane of Brunet curls, which he inspects, but won't touch. So she taunts with graphic masturbatory acts. He parades her at cocktail parties, and then humiliates her by forcing her to turn tricks, in fetish garb, in an apartment he keeps just for this purpose, a little place equipped with a one-way mirror. Imagine what he does with that... Very *Story of O*.

In alternating chapters, Jonquet introduces seemingly unrelated characters — a thug on the lam, a young woman going shriekingly nuts in a countryside mental hospital, and an abducted young man who finds himself chained naked in a dark chamber, forced to endure all manner of physical torture inflicted by a mysterious stranger. Each of these haunted characters, who are very interrelated, is caught in a deceitful web. (The book's title, after all, refers to a genus of tropical spi-



ders.)

Jonquet uses a literary structure that emulates a kind of cinematic cross-cutting between these five (or is it four?) troubled characters whose connections are steadily revealed. As this well-oiled novel glides along, it doesn't take long to figure out where the crimes, perversions and pointed syringes lead, but to the author's credit, the reader still eagerly goes along for the ride.

It's a perverse cocktail that, while written in 1995 (and just translated by Donald Nicholson-Smith last year), has the somewhat retro noir feel of a kinky Alain Robbe-Grillet novel from the 1960s, sans the experimental fiction tricks. Better yet, it brings to mind the moody black-and-white 1959 French surgical horror film, *Eyes Without a Face*, in which a devastated doctor removes the

page 35 ▶

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# Fascinating but 'Dangerous Men'

by Tavo Amador

In *Dangerous Men* (Thomas Dunne/St. Martin's Press, \$24.95), San Francisco Chronicle film critic Mick LaSalle analyzes the impact enforcement of the infamous Hollywood Production Code had on portrayals of men on the screen. This is a follow-up to his splendid *Complicated Women*, which documented how the Code took women out of the bedroom and the boardroom and put them in the kitchen, keeping the "respectable" ones there for several decades.

The chilling effect of the Code on women is well-known, although, until LaSalle's book last year, many thought its most famous victim, Mae West, was also the catalyst that brought it into being. LaSalle put that myth to rest by showing how liberated and daring the early talking films of Norma Shearer, Greta Garbo, Joan Crawford, Miriam Hopkins, Jean Harlow, Loretta Young, and

others were. These actresses portrayed women who were smart, sexually liberated, independent, and appealing, and, unlike West, were women with whom females in the audience could identify.

What makes *Dangerous Men* so fascinating is that it shows how much men lost by censoring women. The backers and enforcers of the Code were puritanical, misogynist, moralizing males who feared assertive women. Before mid-1934, when the Code was enforced, men were comfortable with women who were their equal. Female virginity was not an issue for the pre-Code characters played by Clark Gable, James Cagney, Robert Montgomery, John Barrymore, and others. In *Woman Accused* (1933), for example, Nancy Carroll tells Cary Grant she can't marry him, because she has lived with another man. Grant offers his hand, says, "Shake," then begins his courtship.

Of equal interest, the men of pre-Code Hollywood distrusted



business leaders, and, until Franklin Roosevelt ushered in the New Deal, didn't think much of government, either. LaSalle expertly shows how Cagney, Edward G. Robinson, and the forgotten Richard Barthelmess portrayed gangsters and other shady characters whom audiences found admirable. These men thought for

themselves, took a look at a society turned upside-down by the '29 stock market crash and the Great Depression, and decided they needed to make their own rules to survive. As the author points out, they differed from the stars of the Silent Screen or early talkies, and were nothing like the roles many of these actors, in their post-Code careers, played.

## Up to date

The scope of LaSalle's work is impressive, as is his light, conversational style. He summarizes the plots of many films, describes the roles played by actors, yet keeps the prose engaging and enjoyable. Equally significant is how relevant his observations are for today.

"All entrenched power depends on the illusion of unity to suppress dissent at the source, to make anyone who has the impulse to question authority feel odd, surrounded, or powerless. Simplistic dogma is offered as revealed truth, but inevitably will collapse in the face of sophisticated thinking or even good common sense. Pre-Code movies applied... honest observation... to the turbulent America of the early '30s, and said things that are not usually said — that war is hell, that governments lie, that officials are corrupt, that it is every man for himself, that to be honest and courageous sometimes means

fighting the system or subverting it."

Keep that quote in mind, then rent *Little Caesar* (1931), starring Robinson, who, as LaSalle points out, is infatuated with handsome Douglas Fairbanks, Jr. in it; or *Public Enemy* (1931), with Cagney; or watch Joan Blondell sing "Remember My Forgotten Man" in *Gold Diggers of 1933*, or view Gable and Crawford in *Possessed* (1931), to see what he is talking about.

In a helpful appendix, LaSalle summarizes the post-Code careers of the actors whom he cites, and also provides a listing of which films mentioned are available on video or shown on Turner Classic Movies.

Like any good critic, LaSalle has his biases. For example, he doesn't mind that the Barrymores (John and Lionel) are usually quite theatrical — not to say hammy — in their films, yet seems less tolerant of Charles Laughton's flamboyance. But few books on movies are as thorough, original, and fun as this one is. LaSalle has added to our understanding of the dreadful impact of the Production Code, not only on movies, but on American society as a whole. Recovery from it would not come for three decades. He expertly shows just how much contemporaries and future generations lost. ▼

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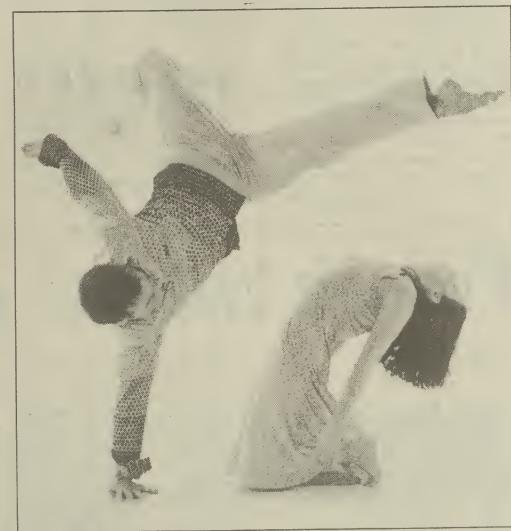
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Choreographers/directors Austin Forbord and Shelley Trott of Rapt.

Andy Moga

## Rapt 'House'

◀ Arts cover

intended to be presented there.

### Home building

Mendoza plays the father in *House*, an irony since he is also the youngest cast member. There is an actual house built in the theater space, and the audience watches a narrative played out in various rooms. There are a father, mother and three kids, TVs playing nonstop, and a certain amount of dysfunction. Sounds like a "same-old" story, but Rapt has a reputation for showing things their way.

"He's a schmoe, a loser," said Mendoza of his character. "I'm a good communicator, he's not."

Mendoza was just back from appearing in a video for girl-group TLC, "me and a bunch of black bodybuilders," where he adapted his aerial artistry to de-

pict a pole-dancer in a male strip club where TLC happen to be singing.

He has a website ([benmendozo.com](http://benmendozo.com)), an agent in Hollywood, and career options: "Join a circus, do the club scene, teach — I love teaching — or do the LA thing. There were aerialists at the last three Super Bowls, and at the Olympics. I'm sorry, but dancers are a dime a dozen."

A work-out on the rope or tissu includes a 45-minute warm-up, where you perform such standard aerial maneuvers as "candlestick," "push push," "open close," "planché," "spin the cat," "Archie," and "windshield wiper." Sound intriguing? Mendoza offers classes for beginners. ▼

**House** plays Thurs.-Sun., Feb. 6-16, at SomArts Cultural Center, 934 Brannan St. Reservations: (510) 981-1005, or [www.acteva.com](http://www.acteva.com).

# 15th Lambda Lit. Awards finalists named

ast week, the Lambda Literary Foundation announced the finalists for the 15th Annual Lambda Literary Awards for excellence in gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender literature. The winners will be announced in Los Angeles on May 29.

**Gay Men's Fiction** *At Swim Two Boys*, Jamie O'Neill, Scribner; *Avoidance*, Michael Lowenthal, Graywolf Press; *Boulevard*, Jim Grimsley, Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill; *Letters to Montgomery Clift*, Noël Alumit, MacAdam/Cage Publishing; *The Martian Child*, David Gerrold, Forge

**Lesbian Fiction** *Fingersmith*, Sarah Waters, Riverhead Books; *Lucky in the Corner*, Carol Annshaw, Houghton Mifflin Company; *Stay*, Nicola Griffith, Doubleday; *Godspeed*, Lynn Breedlove, St. Martin's Press; *This Place Called Absence*, Lydia Kwa, Kensington Publishing

**Gay Men's Poetry** *The Christmas Poems*, Krandall Kraus, Attar Girl Press; *Hazmat*, J.D. McClatchy, Alfred A. Knopf; *Landscape with Human Figure*, Rafael Campo, Duke Univ. Press; *Ten Tongues*, Reginald Harris, Three Conditions Press; *Theory of Devo-*

*lution*, David Groff, Univ. of Illinois Press

**Lesbian Poetry** *Body Language*, C.C. Carter, Kings Crossing Publishing; *Mules of Love*, Ellen Bass, BOA Editions, Ltd.; *Passing*, Eloise Klein Healy, Red Hen Press; *Red*, Melanie Braverman, Perigee Press; *Unraveling at the Name*, Jenny Factor, Copper Canyon Press

**Gay Men's Mystery** *Hot Spot*, Michael Craft, St. Martin's Press; *Murder in the Rue Dauphine*, Greg Herren, Alyson Publications; *The Hired Man*, Dorian Grey, GLB Publishers; *The Lodger*, Drew Gummer, Millivres; *The Snow Garden*, Christopher Rice, Miramax

**Lesbian Mystery** *Accidental Murder*, Claire McNab, Bella Books; *Death by Prophecy*, Lauren Maddison, Alyson Publications; *Good Bad Woman*, Elizabeth Woodcraft, Kensington Publishing; *Immaculate Midnight*, Ellen Hart, St. Martin's Press; *The Weeping Buddha*, Heather Dune Macadam, Akashic Books

**Autobiography** *Famous Builder*, Paul Lissky, Graywolf Press; *Insurgent Muse*, Terry Wolverton, 

City Lights Publishers; *Surviving Madness*, Betty Berzon, Univ. of Wisconsin Press; *The Chelsea Whistle*, Michelle Tea, Seal Press; *Wild Animals I Have Known*, Kevin Bentley, Green Candy Press

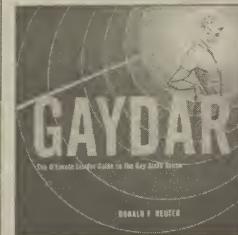
**Fiction Anthology** *Bend Sinister*, The Gay Times Book of Disturbing Stories, Peter Burton, ed., Millivres; *Black Like Us*, Devon Carabado, Dwight McBride and Don Weise, eds., Cleis Press; *Queer Fear II*, Michael Rowe, ed., Arsenal Pulp Press; *Rebel Yell 2*, Jay Quinn,

ed., Southern Tier Editions/Harrington Park Press; *Summer Share*, Chris Kenry, William J. Mann, Andy Schell and Ben Tyler, Kensington Publishing

**Nonfiction Anthology** *Found Tribe*, Lawrence Schimel, ed., Sherman Asher Publishing; *From ACT UP to the WTO*, Benjamin Shepard and Ronald Hayduk, eds., Verso; *GenderQueer*, Joan Nestle, Riki Wilchins and Claire Howell, eds., Alyson Publications; *The Man I Might Become*, Bruce Shnider, ed., Marlowe & Company; *This Bridge We Call Home*, Anilouise Keating and Gloria Anzaldua, eds., Routledge

**Biography** *Gay Rebel of the Harlem Renaissance*, Thomas Wirth, ed., Duke University Press; *Glenway Wescott Personally*, Jerry Rosco, Univ. of Wisconsin Press; *Rare and Commonplace Flowers*, Carmen L. Oliveira, Rutgers Univ. Press; *Ridiculous!*, David Kauf-

taormino, ed., Cleis Press; *Cocksure*, Bob Vickery, Alyson Publications; *The Sperm Engine*, Stephen Greco, Green Candy Press



**Humor** *Gaydar*, Donald F. Reuter, Crown Publishers; *Is It a Date or Just Coffee*, Mo Brownsey, Alyson Publications; *Screening Party*, Dennis Hensley, Alyson Publications; *Skipping Toward Gomorrah*, Dan Savage, Dutton; *The Big Book of Lesbian Horse Stories*, Alisa Surkis and Monica Nolan, Kensington Publishing

**Visual Arts** *A Hidden Love*, Dominique Fernandez, Prestel; *On the Couch: Volume One*, Tom Bianchi, Bruno Gmunder Verlag; *Out/Lines*, Thomas Waugh, Arsenal Pulp Press; *Outlaw Representation*, Richard Meyer, Oxford Univ. Press; *Paul Cadmus: The Male Nude*, Justin Spring, Universe Publishing

**Romance** *Boyfriend Material*, Jon Jeffrey, Kensington Publishing; *Different People*, Orland Outland, Alyson Publications; *Nora and Liz*, Nancy Garden, Bella Books; *She Loves Me, She Loves Me Not*,

Lesléa Newman, Alyson Publications; *The Winter of Our Discontent*, Andrew W.M. Beierle, Kensington Publishing

**SF/Fantasy/Horror** *Daughters of an Amber Noon*, Katherine V. Forrest, Alyson Publications; *Queer Fear II*, Michael Rowe, ed., Arsenal Pulp Press; *Seeds of Fire*, Karin Kallmaker writing as Laura Adams, Bella Books; *The Devil Inside*, Randy Boyd, West Beach Books; *Wired Hard 3*, Cecilia Tan, ed., Circlet Press

**Spirituality** *Courage to Love*, Geoffrey Duncan, The Pilgrim Press; *Found Tribe*, Lawrence Schimel, ed., Sherman Asher Publishing; *Lovers' Legends: The Gay Greek Myths*, Andrew Calimach, Haiduk Press; *Queer Jews*, David Schneer and Caryn Aviv, eds., Routledge; *Queering Christ*, Robert E. Goss, The Pilgrim Press

**LGBT Studies** *Soul Beneath the Skin*, David Simmons, St. Martin's Press; *Love in a Dark Time*, Colm Tóibín, Scribner; *Sex-Crime Panic*, Neil Miller, Alyson Publications; *Queering India*, Ruth Vanita, ed., Routledge; *From Identity to Politics*, Craig Rimmerman, Temple Univ. Press

**Transgender** *Brazen Femme*, Chloe Brushwood Rose and Anna Camilleri, eds., Arsenal Pulp Press; *Dress Codes*, Noelle Howey, Picador USA; *GenderQueer*, Joan Nestle, Riki Wilchins and Claire Howell, eds., Alyson Publications; *Middlesex*, Jeffrey Eugenides, Farrar, Straus & Giroux; *Some of the Parts*, T Cooper, Akashic Books ▶

## Slaughter Rule

◀ page 31

Rule is an act of conscience, more than just a Montana version of the perilous father-son love bond explored in *L.I.E.* Throughout the film, Roy pushes Gid to reveal a terrible secret about his life with another boy, while Gid sets a high price for the gift he holds most dear, trust between men.

David Morse's performance as Gid is as shattering a rollercoaster ride as Brian Cox's dark work in *L.I.E.* Morse makes Gid a young man's wet dream of a classified ad for the ideal bear of a man who knows when to hug and when to spank. The harsh Montana landscape, with its cruelly beautiful sky (as expressively photographed by Eric Edwards, who shot the bleak, rural buddy film *My Own Private Idaho*), and poetically scored with jukebox and honky-tonk country music no longer heard on country radio) becomes an ideal setting for the kind of film critic Pauline Kael most hated: the sensitive man film, the kind of film made and sponsored by that most benevolent of surrogate fathers, Sundance daddy Robert Redford. ▶

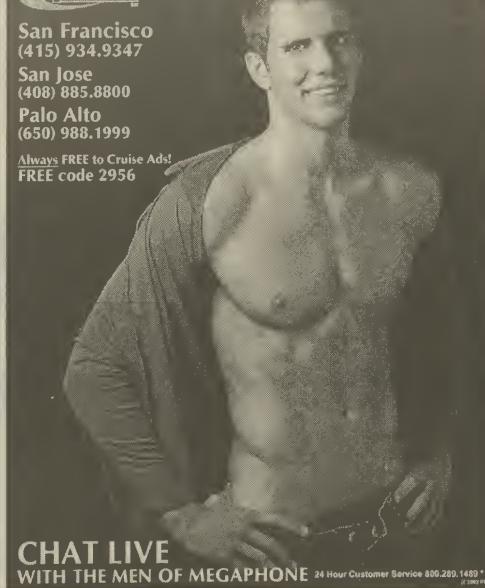
Opens Friday.

## Mygale

◀ page 33

faces of young women in order to reconstruct his daughter's car-crash damaged visage. It's dark, stylish and dirty fun.

The folks at City Lights have leaked the factoid that Pedro Almodóvar has optioned *Mygale* for a forthcoming project, and the compact novel's mixture of underworld, glamour, kinky sex, and uncomfortable obsession seem tailor-made for the director. Jonquet has cooked up an irresistible narrative with a noble and perhaps not-unfounded ambition to make it into a Pantheon of enduring Eurotrash film classics. Pedro, get to work! ▶



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# OUT & ABOUT

## Calendare

by Mark Mardon



The lady stirs up trouble: Cheryl Dunye

### Saint Dunye

Cheryl Dunye, the subject of Frameline's "Close-Up: Visionaries of Modern Cinema," this Monday at the Castro Theatre, is a hero — one of those NEA-funded queer artists who have roused the ire of the Christian right and Congressional Republicans, and managed to make them look like the narrow-minded fools they are.

In the summer of 1996, when Dunye's hit film *The Watermelon Woman* opened the 20th San Francisco International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival, throngs of queer cineasts gushed appreciation for Dunye's clever documentary within a documentary — or "mokumentary" — which used all kinds of cinematic tricks to pull people into the world of Black lesbian filmmakers and their obsessions. Of course it was the hot lesbian sex in the film that pissed off the fun haters in Congress, which made the film all the more detectable.

The *Watermelon Woman*, which had just won the prestigious Teddy Award at the Berlin Film Festival, treated the packed Castro to Dunye's mock-historical scenes of one Fae Richards, an obscure actress who turns up repeatedly in Hollywood films of the 1930s, usually playing a mammy, the "Watermelon Woman." Dunye's *The Watermelon Woman* is about "the complexity of Black lesbian desire," says Dunye, and in it she plays her sexy self doing what sexy lesbians always seem to be doing — checking out videos and each other. It's a self-referential film about a dyke filmmaker doing research for a documentary about Richards, who seems real, but isn't, which is totally disorienting but lots of fun. Dunye's approach crosses genres and boundaries, exemplifying the creative liberties queer filmmakers revel in taking. Her style explodes convention, up-tight morals, racial barriers and a whole lot more.

Since *TWW*, Dunye has made a searing prison drama, *Stranger Inside* (2001), which won top awards at four queer film festivals. She is currently directing the comedy *My Baby's Mama* with Eddie Griffin for Miramax. ▶

Frameline's "Close-Up: Visionaries of Modern Cinema," featuring director Cheryl Dunye in discussion with filmmaker/author Yvonne Welbon (*Living With Pride: Ruth Ellis @ 100*), takes place February 10, 8 p.m. at the Castro Theatre. Tickets are \$12 (\$10 student/senior/disabled); \$50 w/private dessert reception with Dunye. Tix/info: 925-866-9599; [Frameline.org/CloseUp](http://Frameline.org/CloseUp)

NCTC's YouthAware Program presents Doug Holsclaw's *Get Real!* See Tuesday.

## Eri

### Dhia Tribe @ JSCA

The Jon Sims Center for the Arts presents "The Outsider In The Homeland: Tales of Arrival and Identity," by AIR-space artists in residence Dhia Tribe, a multicultural collective of artists including Neela Banerjee, Tommi Avi- colli Mecca, Francesca Prada, Pireeni Sundaralingam and John Turni, with composer Colm O'Riain. Poetry. A haunting piece of theater drawing on personal and neighborhood histories to question societal definitions of "The Outsider." \$5-\$10 sliding (NOTAFL0F). 8pm. 1519 Mission St. (btwn 11th St. & S. Van Ness). Tix/info: 554-0402; [jonsimscra.org](http://jonsimscra.org)

### Lamplighters @ YBCA

Opening night: Lamplighters Music Theatre presents Gilbert and Sullivan's *Princess Ida*, directed by Barbara Heroux, conducted by Monroe Kanouse. Originally a satire on feminism, in the Lamplighters' hands it becomes a fractured fairy tale of an intellectual princess and the romantic prince who'll do anything to win her love — even posing as a woman to enroll in her all-female university. This season, Lamplighters Music Theatre marks 50 years of bringing you the best in operetta and musical theatre. \$25-\$32. 8pm. Thru Feb. 16. Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Theater, 701 Mission St. Tix/info: 415-978-ARTS (2787); [www.lamplighters.org](http://www.lamplighters.org)

### Joen Baez & Reno

@ Castro Theatre  
Impresario Marc Huestis presents "Joan Baez & Reno: Together At Last," a gala evening with folk singer/activist Joan Baez and comedian Reno. Presenting the world premiere screening of *Reno: Rebel Without a Pause*, a video interpretation of Reno's acclaimed off-Broadway hit about the aftermath of 9/11 from the point of someone who lived just blocks away from Ground Zero. Then Baez and Reno unveil a performance created just for this event. \$27.50 gala show; \$50 gala show & dessert reception. 7:30pm gala; 10pm reception. 429 Castro St. Tix: 863-0611; [hostess@earthlink.net](http://hostess@earthlink.net); A Different Light Bookstore.

### Potrzebie @ ODC

Choreographer Chris Black and the Potrzebie Dance Project premiere two new works at ODC Theater. In collaboration with Art Street Theatre Director Mark Jackson, Black performs *The Ecstasy of Saint What's-her-name*, with sound score by composer Jake Rodriguez. In *Landscape*, Black directs David Balsley, Kevin Clarke, Ken James, Monique Jenkinson, Jenny McAllister and Angelina Vasile. It's set to Zen-influenced music by Japanese composer Somei Satoh and John Cage. \$15. 8pm. Also Sat., Feb. 8. Tix: 863-9834; [odctheater.org](http://odctheater.org)

### RISD @ Velvet Da Vinci Gallery

Rhode Island School of Design (RISD) presents "RISD on the Road — Jewelry and Light Metals," a juried exhibition by 25 RISD alumni, including brooches, rings, necklaces, earrings, vessels and bracelets demonstrating fine workmanship, concept and quality through a broad range of techniques, materials and processes. Free. 6-8pm. 508 Hayes St. Info: 626-7478; [velvetdavinci.com](http://velvetdavinci.com)

### Luggage Store Gallery

Opening Reception: The Luggage Store presents "Pavil: Wick" (Osprey's "The Twins"), Sao Paolo's acclaimed and prolific graffiti/hip-hop painters, who fuse graffiti/hip hop with Brazilian urban culture. Free. 7-9pm. Exhibit runs thru March 8. 1007 market street (nr 6th). Info: 255-5971; [www.luggagestoregallery.org](http://www.luggagestoregallery.org)

### Bay One Acts

@ Eureka Theatre  
Three Wise Monkeys Theatre Company presents "B.O.A.," the 2nd Annual Bay One-Acts Festival. Tonight thru Feb. 9: *The Lake* by Alan Goy; *A Swish In Time* by Eric Schneiwind; and *Gerry's Law* by Alan Fitch. \$20 (\$50 festival pass good for four performances). 215 Jackson St. (btwn Battery & Front). Tix: 776-7427; [ticketweb.com](http://ticketweb.com). Info: [threewisemonkeys.org](http://threewisemonkeys.org)

### 'Champion!' @ La Val's Subterranean

In Berkeley: Teen Pony Productions presents *Champion!* written and performed by Thessaly Lerner, directed by Peter Nachtrieb. It's a comedy extravaganza and one-woman tour-de-force about maniacal cheerleaders, cut-throat child stars and the mommy managers who made

them battle for power and prestige. \$12-\$20 sliding. 8pm. Also on Feb. 7, 8, 13, 14, 20-22, 1834 Euclid (at Hearst), Berkeley. Tix: 415-789-8370; [thesallyerner.com](http://thesallyerner.com)

### MAX @ Argent Hotel

"MAX TGIF," hosted by MAX (Men's Associated Exchange), a gay fraternal organization with some 500 dues-paying members, making it one of the largest gay social organizations in the country. MAX strives for a fun, open, diverse and welcoming community for gay men via social and philanthropic events. Free. 6-9pm. 503 1st St. (near Market). Info: [maxonline.org](http://maxonline.org)

### Queer Jitterbugs @ The Stud

Come early to the Stud for basic East Coast swing (6:30pm) and new moves (7pm). \$5 for lessons. The Stud swings free from 7:30-10pm. 9th & Harrison. 21+ w/ID. Info: 305-8242; [queerjitterbugs.com](http://queerjitterbugs.com)

### Hyena Comedy @ Double Play Bar

Hank Hyena presents the "Hyena Comedy Showcase," featuring members of the Hyena Comedy Institute. \$5. 8pm. 2401 16th St. (at Bryant). Info: 821-3601.

## Sat

### A.C.T. Masked Ball @ Regency Center

ACT One, the young professional auxiliary of American Conservatory Theater (A.C.T.) hosts "Who Art Thou?" — a lavish masquerade ball offering delectable desserts, danceable grooves, dazzling displays from the A.C.T. costume shop, dramatic set changes throughout the evening, dramatic entertainment from A.C.T.'s finest MFA students, and delicious and decadent drinks. Costumes encouraged; black-tie optional. \$100 (\$80 for ACT One members & groups of 10 or more). 8pm-midnight. The Regency Center, Lodge Level, 1290 Sutter St. (at Van Ness). Tix: 749-2ACT; [www.act-sf.org](http://www.act-sf.org). Info: 439-2402. A.C.T. Costume Rentals: 439-2379.

### 'Fauxgirls!' @ Marlena's

Anjelica Devorox and Victoria Secret host "Fauxgirls!" Drag cabaret at its best.

showcasing both glamour and camp. Featuring the blazing talents of Donna Rae, Bliss, Reality, Mini Minerva, Davida and special guest stars. No cover. 10pm. 488 Hayes St. (at Octavia). Info: 864-6672; [sfdrag.com](http://sfdrag.com)

Western, ancient and contemporary perspectives. Free. 10am-3pm. 1453 Mission St. RSVP: 575-6150; [info@ciis.edu](mailto:info@ciis.edu)

### Gay & Lesbian Sierrans @ Ft. Baker

"Ft. Baker Adopt-a-Site Day with Gay and Lesbian Sierrans (GLS)," an ongoing habitat-restoration project at the north end of the GG Bridge; meet 9:15am at the parking lot btwn the Parade Grounds and the Children's Discovery Museum. Work boots required; dress for dirty work; bring layers, rain gear, water & lunch. Info: [csteane@earthlink.net](http://csteane@earthlink.net)

### Queer Ballroom @ Synergy School

"Queer Ballroom Party" with naughty and nice dancing 9pm-midnight to all sorts of social and ballroom music. Basic lessons (Foxtrot and Rumba) 6:30-7:30pm. No partner or experience needed. \$10 donation (under-21 half off; volunteers free). 1387 Valencia St. Info: 305-8242; [queerballroom.com](http://queerballroom.com)

## sun

### Montclair Trio

#### @ Sha'ar Zahav

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav and the Holocaust Center of Northern California present "Chamber Music Concert: A String Extravaganza." The Montclair Trio returns for a program of string trios by Beethoven, Klein, Krasa and Francaix. The trio are violinists Randy Weiss and Patricia Whaley and cellist Cheryl Fippen, all front-stage players in the newly formed Symphony San Jose/Silicon Valley. Two Jewish composers, Gideon Klein and Hans Krasa, are represented. Also: two light, short string trios by Ernst von Dohnanyi, and Hungarian romantic, and Jean Francaix, a French neo-classicist, plus a rollicking, ebullient Serenade by Ludwig van Beethoven. \$15 CSZ member; \$20 non-members. 7pm. 290 Dofores St. (at 16th). Info: 861-6932, ext 305; [shaarzahav.org](http://shaarzahav.org)

### Connie Champagne

#### @ The Plush Room

The legend returns: "Imagine Judy Garland: An Evening With Connie Champagne." Revered for her artistic excellence and dazzling performances, Connie brings genuine Judy charm to life. \$20+2-drink min. 8pm. 940 Sutter St. Tix: 885-2800

### SF Hiking Club

Join other outdoor lovers for a Mt. Tam Coastal Trail Hike. Get some sun and views high above the ocean. It's a leisurely, moderate 9-mile hike with a 2,000-ft. elevation



Thessaly Lerner's "Champion!" plays at La Val's Subterranean Theater in Berkeley. See Friday.



Lesbian/bisexual erotica plays out in LiquidFIRE's *Skin Hot: Bone Deep* at Buriel Clay Memorial Theatre. See Thursday

tion gain. Meet 9:15am under the large Safeway sign at Market & Dolores. Info: 487-6410; [sfinkling.com](http://sfinkling.com)

#### GLS @ Roberts Regional Park

Potluck brunch with Gay & Lesbian Sierrans, followed by a short nature walk. Brunch starts at 11am. Bring dish to share. Car shuttle from Rockridge BART station meets 10:30am. Info: Randy at 510-530-3624; [rgrapelincks.com](http://rgrapelincks.com)

#### GLS @ Carson Falls

Carson Falls Hike, covering five miles of fire roads north of Mt. Tamalpais. Meet 9:30am at Jamba Juice at Church & Market, or at the Pine Mtn. Rd. trailhead just outside Fairfax on the Bolinas Fairfax Rd. at 10:40am. Rain Cancels. Info: Lise at 415-864-5885; [iblash@yahoo.com](mailto:iblash@yahoo.com)

#### GLS bike ride, Berkeley/Oakland

Skyline/Canyon bike loop tour of the hills above Berkeley & Oakland. Strenuous climbs, panoramic Bay views, redwood forest, remote back roads. Meet at Rockridge BART at 10am. Info: Leonard, 510-601-0621; [leonardgabriele@earthlink.net](mailto:leonardgabriele@earthlink.net)

#### Pocket Opera

**@ Temple Emanu-El**  
Donald Pippin's Pocket Opera presents *Maria Padilla* by Gaetano Donizetti. A passionate and imaginative girl flouts the social code of her day and achieves an unlikely goal after a perilous journey. Performed in concert style. \$32 (\$16 under 18). 3pm, Martin Meyer Auditorium, Temple Emanu-El, 2 Lake St. (at Arguello). Info: 972-8930; [pocketopera.org](http://pocketopera.org). Tix: 1-800-303-1677; [ticketweb.com](http://ticketweb.com).

#### Mon 10

#### 'QComedy' @ The Center

"QComedy Showcase," Monday Night Gay Comedy hosted by Karen Ripley, plus Blake, Doug Holsclaw, Carla Clay, Laughingstock Improv troupe, Bob Douglas, Christian Simonson, and Bridget Schwartz. \$8-\$15 sliding. Doors open 7:30pm; show at 8pm prompt. SF LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market St. (at Octavia). Tix: 485-5633; [www.harveymilk.org](http://www.harveymilk.org); [www.QComedy.com](http://www.QComedy.com)

#### Paula West @ Continuum

Continuum, a nonprofit HIV/AIDS organization based in the heart of SF's Tenderloin district, presents "An

Evening with Paula West II," featuring magnificent jazz singer Paula West and her trio in a fundraising performance to be given at a private residence in Pacific Heights. \$150. 6-9pm. Tix/info: 437-2900, ext. 106.

#### Thu

#### 'Buzz' & 'Get Real' @ NCTC

New Conservatory Theatre Center brings back "Buzz!" (Feb. 11-13 & Mar 4-13), a drug-education play for middle-school students; and "Get Real!" (Feb. 18-27 & Mar 18-27), an HIV/AIDS-prevention play written by Doug Holsclaw and directed by Doyle Ott, aimed at grades 4-6. "Buzz!" tells the story of Cally, a teenager bored with her life who tries a drug called Buzz. At critical points in the drama the action stops and the audience is invited to advise and assist Cally in her struggle with Buzz. For 6-8 graders. \$10 adults; \$7 youth. 9:45am & 11am. NCTC, 25 Van Ness Ave. Tix: 861-4914, ext 109.

#### Hybrid Project @ Intersection

"The Hybrid Project" a collaborative workshop with dancers, musicians, poets & performers working with live audience to create a new performance piece premiering later this Spring. Join more than a dozen artists as they meld and theatricalize their ideas, writings, themes, and rhymes into a fusion of style, discipline, language and experience. \$5-\$15 sliding. 8pm. 446 Valencia St. Info/tix: 626-2787.

#### Wed 12

#### Beth Custer @ The LAB

The LAB presents "The Clarinet Monster Series" featuring Composer-In-Residence Beth Custer and Friends. Tonight: Clarinet Thing, a quintet of clarinetists, play original music and arrangements of jazz classics, as well as original compositions. Players: Sheldon Brown (Omar Sosa, Club Foot Orchestra, Klezmorim), Ralph Carney (Tom Waits, Devo, B52's, Jonathan Richman), Beth Custer (Club Foot Orchestra, Trance Mission, Eighty Mile Beach), Ben Goldberg (New Klezmer Trio, Junk Genius, Brainchild), and Peter Josef (Earplay, Paul Dresher, Empyrean Ensemble). \$10-\$15 sliding. 8pm. 2948 16th St. (at Capp).

Tix/info: 864-8855; [thelab.org](http://thelab.org)

#### Robert Moses' Kin @ Cowell Theater

Choreographer/dancer Robert Moses and his company open their ninth anniversary season with a two-week engagement of two different programs, kicking off tonight with Program I (Feb. 12-16): *A Biography of Baldwin and The Soft Sweet Smell of Firm Warm Things*. Says Moses of James Baldwin: "His thoughts on American, African-Americans, his art, and his homosexuality were all just part of his attempt to find justice in a world that did not have enough love." The work includes spoken text by Baldwin, Lorraine Hansberry, Langston Hughes and others. 8pm (2pm Sun). \$24.50 (\$18.50 student). Fort Mason Center (Marina & Buchanan). Tix: 345-7575; [robertmosesk.org](http://robertmosesk.org)

#### 'Black Like Us' @ Harvey Milk Library

Jewelle Gomez, Marci Blackman, Derrick Scott and Red Jordan Arobateau discuss "Our Lives as African American GLBT Writers," a literary event. Free. 7pm. Eureka Valley/Harvey Milk Memorial Branch Library, 3555 16th St. (near Market).

#### Thu

#### LiquidFIRE @ Buriel Clay Memorial Theatre

LiquidFIRE Productions presents The Liquid Fire Project's "Skin Hot: Bone Deep (Series 2)," directed by Veronica C. Combs. Lesbian and bisexual women of color take you on a journey through song, dance, storytelling, poetry and unspoken interpretation exploring the connection between race and the erotic. \$18 (\$13 seniors/students). Thu, Fri & Sat thru March 1. 762 Fulton St. Tix: A Different Light Bookstore, SF; Mama Bears Bookstore, Oakland; [ticketweb.com](http://ticketweb.com)

#### Del & Phyllis @ Castro Theatre

*No Secret Anymore: The Times of Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon*, a 55-minute documentary about two partners in love and political struggle for half a century. Del and Phyllis are founders of the modern lesbian civil rights movement. *No Secret Anymore* follows them through six decades, tracing the emergence of lesbians from the fear of discovery to the expectation of equality. Produced by Academy Award Nominee Dee Mosbacher, and Peter Josef (Earplay, Paul Dresher, Empyrean Ensemble). \$10-\$15 sliding. 8pm. 2948 16th St. (at Capp).

#### WANNA SUBMIT?

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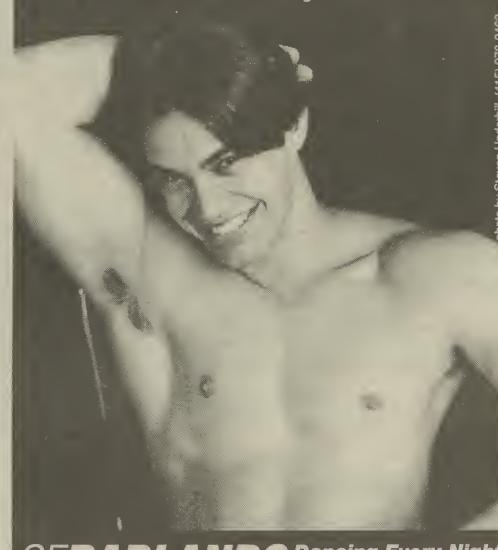


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# Leather under attack

## Oscar®, Denver Broncos, PETA get nasty

by Mister Marcus

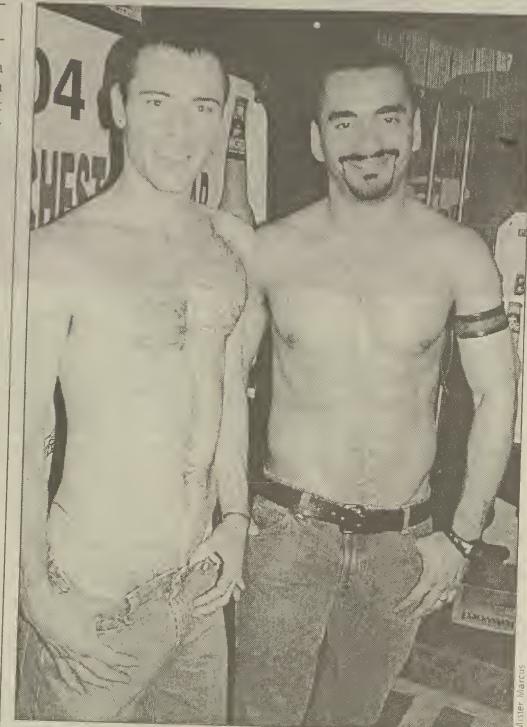
In Christmas Eve 2002, a process server in Pittsburgh marched up to the front door of the Monterey Street home of Michael Zuhl, Executive Producer of the International Leather Sir/Boy competitions. The server had been sent out by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, who were demanding, by way of a lawsuit in federal district court, that the use of a logo by the Leather Sir/boy organization be terminated, because it too closely resembles the official Oscar® statuette given to Academy Award® winners each year.



The disputed Int'l Leather Sir/boy logo: too much like Oscar®?

In January 2003, the Hartford Colts Motorcycle Club of Hartford, Connecticut received a similar threat from the Denver Broncos football team, because the club's logo looks strikingly similar to the logo of that NFL team.

In January 2003, members of PETA (People for Ethical Treatment of Animals) were out in force at the Mid-Atlantic Leather weekend in Washington, D.C. They had no complaint against the Centaur Motorcycle Club (sponsors of MAL weekend) specifically, but rather against leather wearers in general. Their goal, it appears, is to stop the manufacture of leather goods in any form. The leather nation's chief identity is the wearing of



Damon Holzum, left, is Mr. April 2004 on the SoMa Bare Chest Calendar. He celebrated with runner-up Ed Hernandez last Thursday, January 30 at the Powerhouse. Mr. May 2004 will be chosen on Thursday, February 6 at 2130 hours.

leather, latex, uniforms and other fetish wear that specifically identify them as members of the leather community.

### What's it mean for us?

In the case of the International Leather Sir/Boy lawsuit, Zuhl says fighting the case could cost upwards of \$300,000 — or more — and that AMPAS (the Oscar® people) are prepared to defend their

Oscar® logo no matter what it costs — and they can afford it.

On the Hartford Colts MC situation, at my deadline I had not yet heard what direction the club will take to defend their right to have a stallion

head as their logo.

On the PETA situation, don't these people have other things to do besides harassing the leather community? GLBT people are not the only people who wear leather! If you're a supporter of PETA (and they do have a point when it comes to defending helpless animals who are subjected to unethical treatment), it would be a smart move to question their motives in singling out the leather community. After all, leather has been worn for centuries by people worldwide, and all of a sudden it's unethical? Consider this turn of events if you are a member of this group and exercise discretion when considering donations. And tell them: "Get a grip!"

next page ►

## EVENTURES IN LEATHER

### Thursday, February 6

Mr. May 2004 Bare Chest Contest at the Powerhouse at 2130 tonight. Judging: James Scott Geras, Joe Wagenhoffer, Troy Anicete and Jack Garcia.

Leather Community Town Hall Meeting at the LGBT Center, from 1900-2100, put on by the Stop AIDS Project. Topic: HIV prevention for leathermen.

### Weekend, February 7-9

11th annual Portland Uniform Weekend in Oregon with a myriad of activities geared to wears of regimentation gear. For full info on the events, email to: uniformmag@aol.com.

### Friday, February 7

Alan Selby celebrates a 74th milestone at a party in his honor at the Atelier Gallery upstairs at 2345 Market, from 2000-2300, to benefit the AIDS Emergency Fund.

### Saturday, February 8

Mr. L.A. Leather Bear contest at the Faultline in Los Angeles, the 4th of nine contests leading to Mr. LA Leather 2003 title at end of March.

In Washington, D.C. and not without controversy,

sy, it's the mammoth Scarlet's Bake Sale at 1700 at Hamburger Mary's. A big buck raising event every year.

### Sunday, February 9

Mr. Daddy's Leather 2002 Dan Alexander wants to thank all of you who were helpful in his year with the title at a party at Daddy's. Not a fundraiser, but a fun raiser!

### Thursday, February 13

Mr. Daddy's Leather 2003 contest tonight around 2000 when Dan Alexander passes the sash to a successor. Be there!

### Weekend, February 14-16

In Chicago, it's the Mr. CellBlock Leather contest at that world-famous bar.

Also in Chicago: Pantheon of Leather Awards. In Philly, it's Mr. and Ms. Philadelphia Leather 2003 and C.O.M.M.A.N.D.'S 15th anniversary celebration, and the Mr. Maryland Leather Contest.

In SF, it's International Bear Rendezvous, when bears will invade us. A myriad of events including the choosing of International Mr. Bear 2003. Add the Inter-Club Fund Motorcycle Awards and yes, yes, a busy, busy weekend.

## COVER STORY

## Reno and Baez

◀ Arts cover

Huestis says the idea to pair Reno and Baez came to him by chance. He was attending a San Francisco tryout for Reno's show. "I was sitting right in front of Joan Baez, who has the best skin I've ever seen in show business, except for Catherine Deneuve, and I've seen a lot of skin, a lot of stretched skin. I thought it would be fun to have Reno and Joan Baez together. [Coincidentally,] Joan Baez was calling Reno wondering if they could work together."

## Rude awakening

The first thing you need to know about Reno is that she takes everything very personally. Never one to wake before the crack of Noon, on the morning of September 11, 2001, Reno was sleeping in when the first plane hit the North Tower, about five blocks uptown from her apartment. "Reno, we're under terrorist attack in Manhattan!" The words of a friend spill off Reno's answering machine in the opening seconds of *Reno: Rebel Without a Pause*, a blend of catharsis, therapy and agit-prop, with wickedly funny stories from a self-proclaimed refugee of "Tribeca-stan." She asks, "I think of myself as a terrorist, how come they didn't call me?"

Alarmed when she sees people racing by her building, Reno ponders fleeing ("First thing to pack is the vibrator... that was a no-brainer"), mocks the geographic autism



Reno &amp; Baez will grace the Castro

of people in a panic ("Where's Canal Street? You're on Canal Street."), considers her own tenuous grip on celebrity ("This guy comes running up to me, tall guy, and he grabs me, and my face is in his armpit. 'Reno, I'm so glad to see you! I haven't seen anybody I knew.' I'm hugging him so hard because I'm hoping that maybe his wallet would pop out with his ID, because I had no idea who he was. Finally he left, because he saw Patti Smith, he likes her better."), and finally runs up against an immutable fact: she's trapped ("Oh, my god, we're on an island. Do you ever think of this as an island?")

When you least expect it, Reno can surprise you with one small devastating detail, as she describes hearing in real time, not on TV, the sound of the first building collapsing in on itself: "It was very very loud, like a machine-gun

kind of thing, in fact that's what I thought it was, 'They're in the streets with machine guns!' Of course, as we found out later, it was the cement of the floors hitting each other all the way down."

Her voice trails off, and director Nancy Savoca's camera observes a poignant pause.

## Mailer gram

Since Reno's film is headlining an anti-war rally, it's perhaps fitting to observe an odd parallel between her and another larger-than-life figure who always considered himself a high-wire act, a literary provocateur who was happiest performing without a net. Marking the 80th birthday of Norman Mailer with praise for his Pulitzer Prize-winning account of a 1967 sit-in protest at the Pentagon, a critic for National Public Radio proclaimed, "Mailer's genius in *Armies of the Night* derives from his bear-hug grip on absurdity. Mailer has always played the tough guy as clown. Whether you're fighting a war or opposing one, he's the writer you want with you in the foxhole."

Here's a vote for Reno as a smaller and not-so-cuddly bear passing the ammunition. ▼

**Joan Baez & Reno: Together At Last!** unfolds Friday, February 7, 7:30 p.m. at the Castro Theatre. Info: (415) 863-0611. **Reno: Rebel Without a Pause** also plays the Roxie Cinema from February 26 through March 4.

## Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

At any rate, that's the situation facing not just a leather competition and a bike club, but the entire leather community. One wonders what harm a simple logo can do. And worse, will the leather community be plagued with demonstrators and would-be good Samaritans at future leather events?

To add to these headaches, the poor man's Dame May Whitty down there in Palm Springs, is trying to make waves with his pedantic screeds in a monthly rag. But who bothers to listen to the blathering of a totally uninformed dinosaur who doesn't even live in San Francisco, and who tries to tell the local populace what's right? Get a life, Ms. Whitty!

## Bare Chest Contest update

Another huge crowd gathered at the Powerhouse last Thursday, January 23 for the competition to select Mr. April 2004 on the SOMA Bare Chest Calendar. Five men (Luc Anderson, Ed Hernandez, Damon Holzum, René Puliti and Jack van Dean) faced judges James Scott Geras, Peter Jackson, Eric Robbins and Rod Wood during the chaotic and raucous interlude. When the tallies were counted, 26-year-old Damon Holzum prevailed to win the spot. Mr. May 2004 will be selected tonight, Thursday, February 6 with Troy Anicet, Joe Wagenhofer, James Scott Geras and Jack Garcia judging. The action begins at 2130. Be there!

## \$15,000 raised in Cleveland

The C.L.A.W. weekend in Cleveland, Ohio two weekends ago drew a sturdy crowd for the 2nd annual weekend event put on by former Mr. Cleveland Leather Dennis McMahon and his side-kick Robert Miller who presided over a myriad of fund-raising



Heart of America Leather Boy Chuck Brackett will compete at ABW in Washington, DC in April.

events that garnered over \$15,000 for local charities. The "star" title holders were on hand (Ross Cosgrove, IMs.L, Boris Mos, Mr. Leather Holland and 1st runner-up at IML 2002 and Int'l. Boot Black Michael Lanzini to name just a few. Everyone agreed it was a great time in spite of the sub-zero weather and plans for C.L.A.W. 2003 are already on the boards.

## Catching up with Unsung Heroes

The email was flying fast and furious last week because I failed to mention that Jill Carter and Queen Cougar presented two Unsung Hero Awards at MAL 2003 in Washington, DC. The consensus is that the two recipients Rik Newton-Treadwell (a mover and shaker in the Baltimore, Maryland

leather community) and Patrick Richardson, a former Int'l. Mr. Deaf Leather are hardly unsung, both up front activists who make things happen. There are no hard and fast rules governing the awards given out by the triumvirate in Willow Grove, Pennsylvania, but both men have been active in many areas long after their glowing moments in their many endeavors.

## The Dildeaux Awards

It's that time again when the world's only sex awards are being considered for presentation on Saturday, April 19 at the Eagle Tavern, with Lenny Broberg and Donna Sachet MC'ing the hilarious event. Nominations in 22 categories are now open until March 1, with forms at Daddy's, SF Eagle, The Edge, Marlena's, Mr. LeeOn's, and at the Turf Club in Hayward. After the nominations are counted, you can begin voting on March 16 at \$1 a ballot at the same places until April 12th. The awards will be presented at one of the community's most hilarious events on Saturday, April 19. Vote early and often!

## Health alert

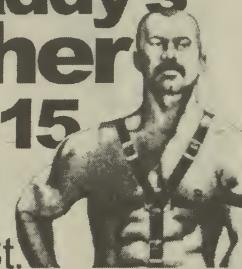
The *Los Angeles Times* reported last week that an emerging epidemic of drug-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* in the L.A. area which is confined primarily to gay men. The staph infection reportedly causes nasty-looking boils, deep abscesses and widespread surrounding inflammation and is impervious to commonly used drugs such as methicillin, penicillin erythromycin Keflex, Cipro, Cefin and Levaquin. Further, the strain contains a powerful toxin called Panton-Valentine leukocidin, which is able to penetrate healthy intact skin upon contact in body areas including the hands and face. Aggressive cases require prolonged hospitalization and intravenous antibiotics to bring under control. You should all stay alert to these signs that could be detrimental to your health. ▼

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- **Weds:** Bare Chest Party/Contest
- **Thurs:** Mr. Daddy's Leather Contest
- **Fri:** Twisted Leather Valentine Party
- **Sat:** IBR Bear Hunting Party

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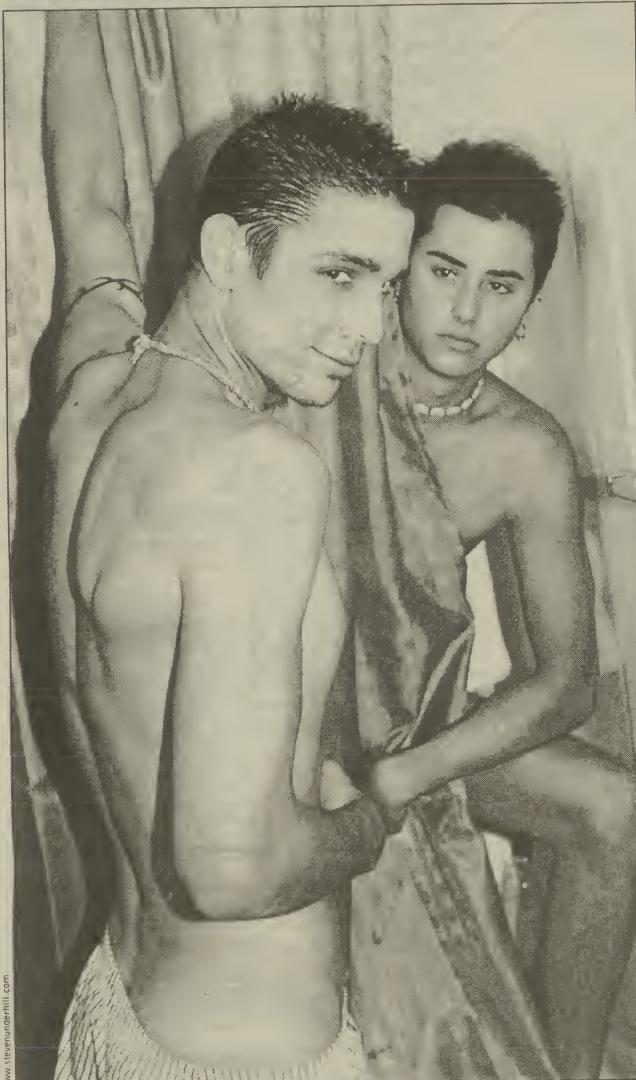
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**Sexy But Very Lonely TS**  
I'm a lonely W/T/S nice sexy body looking for hummous T/S lesbian to correspond with. I'm incarcerated and I'm the only T/S here. Any age any race. ☎ 72353

**55yr Oral Bottom HIV- Seeks**  
Japanese/ Eurasian mix HIV- 50+ oral top for fun (?) Possible L.T.R. ☎ 72354

**Tantric Sex Partner**  
Sought, for regular sessions, experience or will train. ☎ 72355

**"Mac Computer"**  
Seeking Asians, Latinos for some mac help and safe sex and possible friendship. You: 18-30 smooth body swollen nipples, nice round butt. HIV- no fats or fems. ☎ 72356

**Vital Forty Something Plus,**  
Seeks same, healthy, virile, and down to earth man, for dating, & possible ltr. ☎ 72357

**"Help"**  
18-30 young slim or muscular with nice round butt...to help me with my laptop computer and a little loving and safe sex, possible friendship. No fats or fems. ☎ 72359

**Young Exotic Wanted...**  
Mid 50's W.M. 6'1", 195 dk hair & moustache. I like mid 30's to 40's lanky and exotic. Fond of short weekend trips, gardening, dogs, cooking, time at home, & more. ☎ 72359

**Masculine GLM Versatile HIV+**  
Lean masculine 38yrs. 5'7" 154lbs HIV+ healthy. Dark hair features. Intelligent, creative considerate, seeks similar GWM or GLM to share fun times and intimate moments. N/S, N/D. Call me if interested. ☎ 72360

**"Computer Help"**  
I need your help with my lap top. I love Latinos, Blacks and mixed nationality... Because I am. Large swollen nipples and nice round butts. No fats or fems. ☎ 72361

**Young Cute Russian**  
In search for another cute cultured guy (preferably Russian or any European) to share all the pleasures of life including sad day as well. Pls, be under 40. ☎ 72370

**Share Cabin Miami, San Diego**  
Retired, vital, personable, N/S W/M 3/9 to 3/23- 14 days. ☎ 72376

**Ongoing Friendship**  
Lean masculine WM 43 wants to meet a lean and masculine guy under 45 who would appreciate having a good friend to talk to and share experiences with. ☎ 72377

**Lat 45yo Handsome HIV- GMS**  
Seeking same Lat/ Wht Frd/ more 21-45yo. No fat-fem. ☎ 72390

**There's No Place Like Home!**  
Masculine, gay male, weight proportionate; vital, active and healthy- seek same to share romantic dinners and quiet times alone. Not into bars/ gay life- Serious only. ☎ 72391

**-Looking For Boyfriend-**  
Want nice man for friendship. I am 42, 235lbs in good shape. Like movies, drink etc. Take me out. Lot's of fun. ☎ 72392

**Seeking LTR • With Another Hrd/Body**  
I'm 49, 5'9", 155, masculine HIV+ healthy versatile small tight butt athletic body seeking for GWM/GLM for great friendship, slim @ 5'6" to 5'10" under 160lbs. versatile, masculine, friendly leave message. I'll call you back, no fats of fems. ☎ 72394

**Nice Young GLM 4 GWM Or GLM**  
39yrs. 5'7", 155, masculine HIV+ healthy versatile small tight butt athletic body seeking for GWM/GLM for great friendship, slim @ 5'6" to 5'10" under 160lbs. versatile, masculine, friendly leave message. I'll call you back, no fats of fems. ☎ 72394

**ISO Masculine Master And Boy**

Handsome alpha sub looking for part-time position. Me 44yo, 5'10", 175#. Enjoy all types between the ages of 30 to 50. ☎ 72399

You must use this form to submit ads. Deadline for ads is **TUESDAY at 5 PM**, for the following week's issue. New ads run for three consecutive weeks. You will be notified by mail with information on how to leave and retrieve messages from your mailbox ad. Print clearly. No ads will be accepted without valid address, telephone number and legible text. The Bay Area Reporter reserves the right to edit ads. **One ad per customer per week.**

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### Effeminate Men

WLM 46, 6', 165lbs, moustache, moderately hairy. I'm looking for relationship around my age. Please call. ☎ 72389

### SEEKING ADVENTURE

**Hypnotist Fantasy**  
Roleplay hypnotist needs a light-bodied submissive guy who likes being controlled and told what to do. I'm a lean muscular W/M 43 with a nice cock. ☎ 72362

**White Men And Boys!**  
You are my business. Sexy mulatto guy wants to get together with you to party, watch videos, j.o., 69, etc. Call me. ☎ 72363

**Married, Now Bi-Wants To Suck**  
Early 50s W/M now interested in sucking cock. Looking for nice straight, bi older men, 60+70s, seniors, retired- all races welcome. in San Francisco, daytimes. ☎ 72364

**Well Endowed Black Daddy, 49,**  
Seeking a Dr. Phil type guy: tall, husky, mature, bald, moustache only. Tell me what would please you. I have many talents to share. No emotional involvement. ☎ 72365

**Guy Wanted For Hot Fun**  
WM 44, 150# seeking trim guy for fun & friendship. Must be passionate and love to hug, kiss & cuddle. Asian a plus. Your place or mine in SF. ☎ 72366

**White Pussyboy Pervert**  
Celebrate Diversity! Celebrate Pervert! Fuck Me! Fist Me! Fill my insatiable hole. ☎ 72367

**Hairy Fuck Buddy**  
5'8" 140# hairy muscled tattooed GWM skinhead seek similar-sized hairy fuck buddy. No strings or games, just swapping uninhibited rough sweat butt-fucks. Poz; no PNP; 4:20 okay. ☎ 72371

**Hot Passionate East Bay Bottom**  
39yo. W/M 5'9" 150lbs, blond swimmer build 8' open to most scenes. Looking for top men for hot sex, possible relationship. Can Travel to S.F. ☎ 72372

**Al Oral Service Delivered**  
Complete oral service, with no reciprocation necessary, delivered to trim, mature, HIV- guys who love getting head, by SF GWM HIV-. ☎ 72373

**Big Men Wanted By Married W/M**  
42 5'9", 210 beard, hairy, fat 6", big balls, huge load. Am French a/p, also like jo, being watched. You are 30+, 200+ any race. ☎ 72378

**Dirty Old Man Wants Your Ass**  
GM top (not versatile) 68 5'7", 155 great G.W. masc./ submissive bottom. ☎ 72379

**Your Bubble Butt Face!**  
Hot asses eaten by mid 30's rim expert in the Castro! ☎ 72380

**Batter Up\***  
Want nice man for friendship. I am 42, 235lbs in good shape. Like movies, drink etc. Take me out. Lot's of fun. ☎ 72392

**Taker Needs Lover**  
Attractive professional w/vacuum like suction looking for other professionals for during the workday fun. Discreet Financial District location or your location. Uncut A+. ☎ 72382

**Visiting Santa Cruz Monterey?**  
Don't pay for a room! Homebase for free with GWM in exchange for all the cock I can suck. No obligation on you. Must be 18-28, healthy, fit. Call Todd. ☎ 72383

**Dildo And Cock Stimulation**  
I have hard jelly rubber dildo and jack-off sleeve. You want your ass drilled and your cock massaged. Safe. Outcalls preferred. ☎ 72401

### Spank Your Butt

Hot, masculine top, 5'11", 175#, 38, nice build, looking for in-shape bubble butt guy for over the knee bare-ass spanking, role-playing and plowing. ☎ 72385

**Choke On This! 9 Inch Cock,**  
Will make you choke. I'm seeking guys who are also hung 8, 9, or 10 inches for fun & sucking, etc. ☎ 72395

**Seeking Hairy, Hung, Black Oral Bottom**  
Heavy, intense j/o, dirty talk, cock worship, partying buddy desired. Your place, PM preferred. Not into toys, videos, groups, anal. Long partying scenes encouraged. ☎ 72396

**I Kick Back! I'm Hung 9-Inches**  
And I'm looking for other guys hung 8, 9, 10 inches for 69 to service me, watch videos, etc. Call me. ☎ 72397

**Cock And Balls Serviced!**  
Buddy who wants to kick back. Special plus if your cut and hung thick. I could be topped. Me GWM, healthy, negative. Like to make a buddy feel good. ☎ 72398

**Hey, Cockslucker!**  
Get on your knees and unzip my 31 waist jeans. Smooth chested German needs a submissive slim guy from 20 to 42 to do what I say. Gentle or mean. ☎ 72400

### FETISHES

**Foot Bottom Needs Big Feet**  
Looking for men who likes to have there feet worship. I like big masculine smelly feet, no reciprocation. I like dick too. Very discreet. ☎ 72368

**Seeking Heavy Set, Hung Oral Bottom**  
Heavy, intense j/o, dirty talk, cock worship, partying buddy desired. Your place, PM preferred. Not into toys, videos, groups, anal. Long partying scenes encouraged. ☎ 72374

**Buttplay Southbay\***  
GWM 52 5'11" into serious tit and bottom. A night you will remember and repeat. ☎ 72375

**Seeking Heavy Set, Hung Oral Bottom**  
Heavy, intense j/o, dirty talk, cock worship, partying buddy desired. Your place, PM preferred. Not into toys, videos, groups, anal. Long partying scenes encouraged. ☎ 72386

**Man W/ Toe Ring Loves Barefoot**  
Lifelong excitement looking at & fantasizing about men's barefoot. Gding East Bay GWM, 5'9", trim, tan HIV-, loves reciprocal kissing, licking, massaging barefoot & naked, sensual/safe all over body play. ☎ 72387

**Masculine Hairy Top Pervert**  
GWM mid 40's in shape-looking for inshape older bottom who can orders, role playing- rape scenes, molesting suit +. ☎ 72388

### OTHER

**Sugar daddy wanted!**  
Very sexy, young, built model seeks arrangement in exchange for: dinner, functions, nude housekeeping etc. I will lavish you with attention and look great at your side. No sex. ☎ 72369

**Dildo And Cock Stimulation**  
I have hard jelly rubber dildo and jack-off sleeve. You want your ass drilled and your cock massaged. Safe. Outcalls preferred. ☎ 72401

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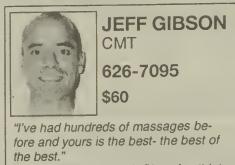
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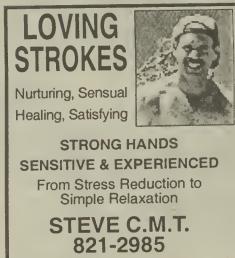
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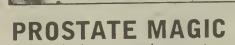
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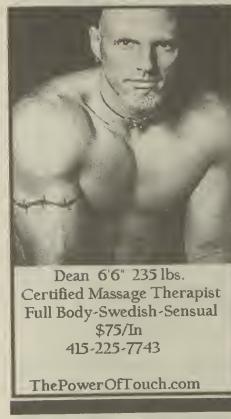
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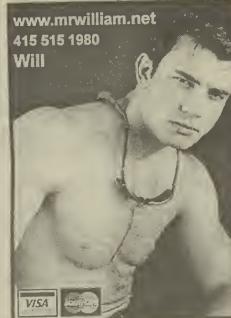
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43yrs, 6'1", 240lbs, flattop, blue eyes, mustache, 7" uncut. Into bondage, SM, WS, CBT, F/F, Slave Training.

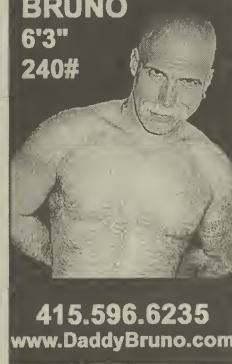
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**BRUNO**  
6'3"  
240#



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**BIG BLACK BEAR**  
Available for your Pleasure evenings and weekends.  
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**WWW.SJBOY.COM**

27, 5'11", 165#, blond hair

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**HOT LATINO GUY**

Eric, handsome, sexy, 25yo, toned,

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6'2" big smile g/r uncut

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**CONSTRUCTION WORKER TOP**

6-1, 177#, vgl, 9 inch cut

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**HUNG FALCON GUY**

Eric Wright 6'3"/195lbs musc.

Smooth, brn/blond, 36yo hung 9.5x7

top, fun and physical, avail 24hrs.

Reduced rate btm 6am-6pm

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**Hung dominant tattooed top**

35 aggressive sexy 24hr in/out

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Will be available from 2/14-16. Sexy,

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**Leather Play**



from Mild to Wild. Sensual & Slow. This Top likes to take his time. Playroom/sling/most scenes. 6'2", 188", 45. Castro. Call Jay (415) 385-9623

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SF Bay Area - FUN Latino  
Mild to Wild - 100% VERSATILE  
Out on - 5'10" 170# - 8' & Growing  
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REPEAT CALLS SAY IT ALL!

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Super Endowed 5'11, 175  
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Aggressive, Dominant 100% Masculine, VGL, Both over 6'3", Vanilla to heavy kink, Leather, boots (size 13), Spanking, Bondage Flogging, WS, FF, Training in town 2-4 to 2-4 only call (206) 778-8605

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34, 5'8", 150# toned hairy tattooed **FIST MASTER**  
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Sexy 36 Blk vers bml athl swim bod grt kisser/oral strong touch out only Fri-Sun 150 Mark@ 510 706-8994

## PERSONALS

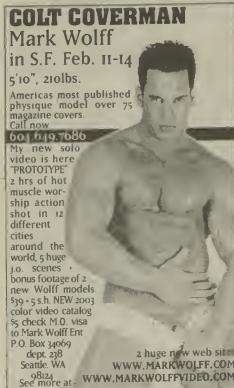
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PLAYROOM SPORTS  
Got a kinky side? Like it intense or laidback?  
Take it slow with Seth.  
190', 6'3", Topman  
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**9"**  
24 hrs, 24 hrs, 24 hrs  
Dark blonde hair  
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washboard stomach  
27" waist • versatile  
Call anytime 837-8900  
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066  
Muscine handsome gymbody

**NUDE SWEDISH SENSUAL**  
6'3" 180 49y 8x6unc smooth. \$60  
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**9 1/2X6**

6'2", 180, 35yrs warm and personal  
One of a kind. Av. 24/7 serv all  
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**NO SCENE 2 EXTREME!**

Dominate. Masculine man open 2  
All scenes. S/M, B/D, F/F, Toys...  
spanking u, role playing, verbal  
trips, no scat, check out my big  
fat tool. Callback required. Call  
Mack 415.565.SEXX \$120. 24hrs ok

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**MEN'S FITNESS MODEL**

11yrs as a "Click" model (NYC) appd  
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**SUPERFINE STR8RSK8R**  
5'9" 140#br/hz1 23yo w/9" schlong  
E Bay in calls & sk8rbrduddy available

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**WELL HUNG JERSEY BOY**  
23yo Whiteboy goodlooking, masc  
5'5", 130# brn/brn hun 7.5x7 "+"  
thick, nice body call Ethan at

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Great shape/smooth/ tats/ 9"cut  
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065

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066

**BACK IN TOWN 2 FOR 1**

2 Black dominant top 10 1/2 11 1/2  
inches long. Call J.R. or Heeken. In/out

648-7391 • 378-9157 cell

066

**JUST TURNED 18**

Hot exotic twink., nice kid, very out-  
going, fun to be with, fresh 18 5'11"  
135 brn/blu Thai and Blk, smooth  
twink bod, 7 1/2 cut, vers top, into

most scenes, have fetish or a fantasy?

Call me, Chad 646-263-9041 or

206-349-3819. Just Visiting

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**GOOD AT WHAT I DO,**

**AND ENJOY IT,**

**YOU WILL TOO.**

**DAX (415) 902-7378**

067

**CHINESE SPICE FOR U**

26, 5'11", 174ls, 7"uncut, playful  
top, suave, smooth 415-518-0168

067

\*Handsome\*Masculine\*SoMa\*Dude\*

\*KICKS BACK FOR YOU!\*

5'11" 175"Br/Gr\*Mid 30"8"Cut

2003 Special! \$60/In-Randy 309-1032

067

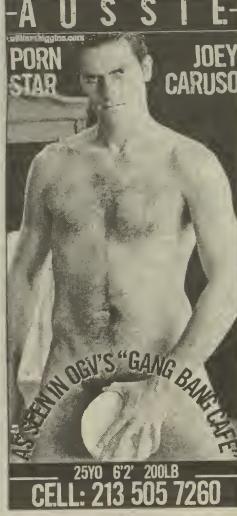
415-377-1704 cel \$120-Out only

**COLLEGE BOY-21 YO WM**

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**WHITE BOY 24/7**

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**MAN WITH A FIST \* TOYS**

Give it up to Nick \* Nob Hill \*  
I'm Great w/Beginners - Advanced  
Need A Helping Hand? 415 885 1471

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10x7" top hot & hard xtra cream!!  
Gorgeous 24yo athleti bol stud  
memorable discreet & unhurried!

In/out \$100+ Ryan 415 414-0779\*\*

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**SOUTHERN HOSPITALITY**

6'2", 175#, bind/blu; White + only  
21! New2area 650 888 1409 Timmy

066

**HOT SLIM MUSC**

5'8", 160# 28yo blu/br

Sweet Ass Love older guys

Dave 415 224 0155

066

Expert butplay by hndsm hung

daddy clean please \$70 out only

Kent 255 0696 youth discount

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Aggressive 2 laid back raw horny

**SUPERHUNG-WOW!**

XXX THICK-OHH-FEEL IT

Dude with boner. Tasty, hits the spot.

Dirty talking, rough or not.

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**TOTAL PACKAGE**

26, gymnasium body, muscular/defined

Asian 7 hard/cut & friendly. Both

in/out avail in \$125 (510) 393-0639

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**"AMERICAN INDIAN"**

Total top 34yrs 5'10"/165lbs muscular/

handsome/ 12 inches hung. Call

for apt. (415) 724-3719

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**COLLEGE BOY-21 YO WM**

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## PEOPLE

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510-238-8877  
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**Men MeetMen Right Now!**

Preview each guy before you decide to connect live!

Try it for **FREE**

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**CONFIDENTIAL CONNECTION®**

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Use Access code 1778

**DRED,**  
You know who you are and you know what you did. Return the gloves to the desk at Gold's or your tattoo artist gets it!!!  
I mean business ink-boy!

**Butt Bottoms wanted for FF/toys**  
415-752-0971

**Presents wanted for birthday boy.**  
Call Tim.

**Good Head in Sonoma County.**  
Call Days 707-823-3895

**Concord GAM luv sucking cock**  
Sks 20-40s STD/HIV- G/Bi/BL/WM  
Pls no overweights 925 671 2704

**Body Trim & Shave "Castro Area Location".** Call 4 aptmt 626-1168

**San Francisco's #1 Gay Dateline**  
Call: 1-900-255-2221 \$2.99 min.  
18+. \$3.49 connection charge.

**S.F. SPANK PARTY INFO**  
415-864-2766 or Private Session

**FREE XXX PORN**  
HotHouse.com/FreePorn

Have belt will tan. Chakra high centering. 510-654-1122

Have birthday, expecting presents.  
Happy 28th (ahem) Tim.

## BAY AREA REPORTER

## PERSONALS ORDER FORM

Indicate  
Type Style  
Here ▼

## DEADLINE

**NOON on MONDAY.**  
Payment *must* accompany ad.  
No ad taken over the telephone. If you have a question, call 415.861.5019.  
Display advertising rates available upon request.

## RATES

First line, Regular	4.50
All subsequent lines	3.00
CAPS	double price
<b>BOLD</b>	double price
<b>X-BOLD</b>	triple price

## PAYMENT

Cash  
 Personal Check  
 Money Order  
 Visa  
 MasterCard

Minimum \$10 charge  
on Visa and MasterCard.

## CREDIT CARD PAYMENT

Card Number  
Expiration Date  
Signature  
Name

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of Issues \_\_\_\_\_ Classification \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL WITH  
PAYMENT TO:

BAY AREA  
REPORTER  
395 Ninth Street  
San Francisco, CA  
94103

OR FAX TO:  
415.861.8144

## PERSONALS

## PEOPLE

## MODEL SEARCH

If you have that special look and are 18 to 25 yrs old with a well defined or very nice athletic body, youthful face, good attitude & love showing it off and having fun, Email or call HARBOUR STUDIOS hsphoto-1@attbi.com (510) 865-9646



## BI CURIOUS Locals

Live Male Chat.  
Record/listen to ads FREE!  
415-402-1010 or  
1-888-272-7277 T/F  
FREE w/code 2166

## LUST

Will Ken ever realize his love for me? Or will Tony come to his senses and sweep me away first? Then again, maybe cute little Jukian will wise up and surprise me...sigh.

E50

## LIVE MUSIC @

The Blue Triangle Lounge, Thursday, 2/13 starting at 8pm. 3231 Fillmore @ Lombard. 5 Groups - Olga, Blue Buddha, -N-Motion, Hollar, Slow Finger & Whiplash F\*ck w/Child, DJ-Timeless. Come enjoy some live music from local groups

E50

## MR SF LEATHER

There will be two contests in 2003. Mr. SF Lea 2003 is March 8. Mr. SF Lea 2004 is Sept 27th, the night before the Folsom Street Fair.

THINK ABOUT IT!  
THINK HARD!

E6

Local men sextate: 888-788-8989

E10

SF neg top luv head/ass! 551-1520

E6

Bare-Assed Spanking  
Experienced, Safe: 415-929-1185

E6003

## BAD BOYS SPANNED

over Daddy's knee. (415)864-2766

E11

## BODY GROOMING

Personal, Areas, to full body.  
Confidential, private, affordable.  
Licensed. 415 282-1997

E6

## CONGRATULATIONS TO:

DYKE GRRRL LORI 2003  
AND

DYKE BOI SHAYNE 2003

Chosen for the titles on Sat. Jan 25

E6

## CUM

## EATING

Video/ DVD/ video on demand/ live sex. [www.factoryvideos.com](http://www.factoryvideos.com)

E6

WM will JO/B/Rim ALL races 18-30, fit. S Cruz Co 831-722-3739

E09

WM will act surprised when he opens ALL his birthday gifts. All presents accepted!

E09

## ICE HOCKEY TRYOUTS

SF Earthquakes, gay and lesbian ice hockey team, are having a practice/ tryout. Call John 563-2636 or visit our site at [www.sfqquake.com](http://www.sfqquake.com)

E07

Like nudie pictures 18-23 only. If you are Asian only with 12" to 15" inch dick & like to fuck all time or be sucked all the time for hours anytime. Pager: 415-356-8815

E13

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

SF DYKE GRRRL LORI 2003

SF DYKE BOI SHANE 2003

Good luck with your title year!

E07

Expert back, body shave & trim \$20  
Hr+Travel Robert • (415) 777-5911.

E09

Any vacuum pumpers out there? New needs lessons. Hot cock Call Jim (415) 346-3987

E06

**HIV/STD/STI Testing.  
Every Saturday, 5:30-9:30 pm.  
It's free. Be there.**

E300K



## XXX WEB

**HOTOLDERMALE.COM**  
Hot daddies and their admirers.  
Photo ads, galleries, models,  
Looking for daddy models 40-65.  
models@hotoldermale.com  
Call 800-837-6007

E05



## XXX WEB

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**FREE!**

\*6 Months Special

**nasty men  
photo ads / fast sex**

\* FREE 6 Months Special is a limited time offer without further notification  
all major cities / must be 18+

**WHAT WAITS  
FOR YOU AT  
M4M?**

**Well, Sex  
of Course...**

**"On-line's  
best meat  
market"  
—salon.com**



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WHEN WE LAST SAW OUR PENIS, HE WAS GETTING TESTED FOR SYPHILIS.

YOU TESTED POSITIVE, BUT AUNTIE BIOTIC WILL CURE IT.

YOU MEAN ANTIBIOTICS?

NO, HONEY, HE MEANS **ME!**  
I'M AUNTIE BIOTIC! AND I HATE SYPHILIS!

YOUR DAYS ARE OVER, YOU NASTY LITTLE SORE!

WAP!  
WAP!  
WAP!

WOW... YOU JUST KILLED A SYPHILIS SORE WITH A GUCCI PURSE.

HEY, I'M HIGH CLASS, HONEY.

METZGER

Syphilis is spread by "skin-to-skin" contact, through anal, vaginal AND oral sex. Many people don't notice the symptoms or know they have syphilis. The initial sore is painless. The good news is syphilis is easily cured.



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